

# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

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## BEGIN AND END WITH GOD

Now, gracious Lord, Thine arm reveal,  
And make Thy glory known;  
Now let us all Thy presence feel,  
And soften hearts of stone.

Help us to venture near Thy throne  
And plead a Savior's name,  
For all that we can call our own  
Is vanity and shame.

From all the guilt of former sin,  
May mercy set us free;  
And let the year we now begin,  
Begin and end with Thee.

Send down Thy Spirit from above,  
That saints may love Thee more;  
And sinners now may learn to love,  
Who never loved before.

And when before Thee we appear  
In our eternal home,  
May growing numbers worship here  
And praise Thee in our room.

John Newton, 1725-1807 (Hymn 335)

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## THE BIG PICTURE

"Don't just look down at the road. Focus on the big picture. Look ahead so you can be prepared for any hazard of the road you might be approaching." So speaks the instructor to his class of would-be drivers. It is important advice--not only for drivers but also for those who run the Christian race.

"The big picture." What does it mean? Do we not live in the present? Why the concern about tomorrow when we hear that "tomorrow never comes"? Certainly we know that today is important. So is missing the bumps and pot holes in the road. But if we are only concerned about here and now, we are like the man that says, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." The decisions we make and the direction we take now determine what our tomorrow will be. The big picture is the look ahead and seeing the results of our actions of today.

As we begin a new year, there are issues of the present that cry for attention: we may have an appointment to meet; guests are coming for Sunday dinner; the car needs to be washed and serviced; the children need correction and direction; what should we be reading? It's like steering the car; we don't want to run off the road just because we are looking ahead at the big picture. The present tasks are vital. But we do them with an eye to the future.

Training children is one of the best examples. It is sometimes painful to correct them *now*. But let us look ahead a few years. Hebrews 12:11 applies to us adults as well as to children: "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." I used to think, "What will my children look like as



adults?" A better question is, "What will my children *be* as adults?" Will they be committed servants of God using the energy of youth to further God's Kingdom? Will they be interested in the community and the world beyond? Will they accept the duties of serving without great concern about big wages or who receives credit or who controls whom? In short, will they be children of God? What they will be is determined largely by what they receive now.

Consequently, much of child training should be focused on the future. Are they learning to show appreciation--to say "please" and "thank you"? Are they developing good work habits that will last a lifetime? Is Bible reading and memorization part of their day? Are they learning respect for authority that will help them respect the law and accept the authority of God? The first and most important teachers of the children are their parents, and on them the responsibility must rest. Church leaders and school can help, but the home is where the habits are made and the child molded for the future.

Resisting temptation is another example of the importance of looking ahead. (See the article on this subject in this issue.) Each day we are tempted to enjoy and experience the world's excitements **now**. But look down the road. See the big picture. Besides being wrong, sin has consequences for the future. James 1:14,15 lists what my father called the steps down: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." The writer of Proverbs (23:32) describes the results of strong drink: "At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." What we sow now, we reap in time to come.

The last but most important example we give is knowing Jesus. Only as we walk with our Savior will the big picture come into focus. John 15:26 records Jesus' words about the work of the Holy Spirit: "But when the Comforter is come,

whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me.**" And 16:14, "**He shall glorify me.** . . ." As 2001 begins, may we be open to the Spirit's testimony to us of Jesus. Only as we begin the year with Jesus can we end it in His will. Only as we worship and walk with Him can we resist temptation and be ready to meet Him when He returns. Only by His direction can we prepare our children for the battle with the world in coming days. See the big picture. Begin the year with Christ, and then go with Him at His coming.

### LOOK AHEAD

Look ahead! Be not deceived by present thrills;  
The future is before us. What God wills  
Is what will make it bright and clear  
And brimming full with bliss and joy and cheer.

Look ahead! Your children need attention now  
To fit them. Train them well to hold the plow  
And not look back regretting time now lost.  
Insist today that they "count well the cost."

Look ahead! When temptation rears its ugly head  
And makes us sad. Then turn instead  
And feast your eyes by faith upon the goal:  
That heavenly home of every ransomed soul.

Look ahead! Jesus is waiting there to bless  
With words, "Well done; enter into my rest."  
Look ahead! The training time and battle will be done;  
The Lord will come; the victory will be won. --L.C.

## SANCTIFICATION

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." (II Tim. 2:21)

Only when doctrine is defined by the intellectual mind can it become an effectual inspiration of the heart. The form is important, but without the outward expression, there is no inward power. It is also possible to have a verbal expression religiously, and be ignorant of what we are claiming and the promised blessing that follows the sanctified.

Sanctification is a requirement to become the righteousness of God. It is God's tangible evidence of His holiness in a lost and dying society. To be sanctified is God's will for all men. He wills that all men would come to the knowledge of the truth for only herein is sanctification experienced.

The purpose of sanctification is to restore fallen man to God's holiness by overcoming Satan in the soil that he contaminated.

Ezekiel prophesied of this (Ezk. 36:23,26,27): "And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. . . A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

We believe this is not speaking of physical Israel, but the spiritual kingdom of God on earth inaugurated by Jesus Christ that will excel in all eternity. "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

Jesus is the expressed image of God's sanctifying power in overcoming the world. "Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though you believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him." (John 10:36-38) The language He spoke there and proved in His life is an unconquerable testimony of sanctification. Man is called to the same sanctification. Our relationship with God and His Son and one another is held in highest respect in sanctification. If it is not, we are no more than a secular, service organization or club.

God has sanctified the home and the church. It is through these two institutions that God is proving Himself in sanctification. Every member of these two institutions is then accountable for its sanctifying powers in purity and holiness. Any unholy act in what God has sanctified puts God to open shame. ". . . If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Mat 6:23) "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." (Heb 10:26,27)

Man's part in sanctification is to keep holy what God has sanctified by the knowledge of truth: Study to show thyself approved unto God. Keep yourselves in the love of God. Neglect not the assembling of yourselves together. Speak often one to another. Follow peace with all men. Sanctify the Lord God in your heart. Love not the world. Do good unto all men, especially those of the household of faith. Have love without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good. Love the brotherhood. Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.

Kenneth Martin, Nappanee, Indiana



## TEMPTATIONS

Are temptations nothing more than conflicting powers within us to set off a bad day? The word means the leading into evil; enticing.

The other day our son said, "I just wish Adam had not taken the apple!" I am sure we all wish this, and yet how many "apples" or "fruits of unrighteousness" should we refuse to taste today?

How discouraging temptations are! Yet do we remember God's power within us unless we are in need? How often do we pray, "and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"? Jesus said in Matt. 26:41, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

When was our first temptation? I doubt if any of us really know, for it began our parents' training of us! How early we hear our children say "I want. . ." or "I need. . ."

James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." The next verse says, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." How then are we tempted? "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lusts, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1:12-15)

Does God allow temptation? Yes, we know He does. Job 1:8 says, "And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job. . ." Are temptations put before us to let us see whose we really are? Can they not also be growing experiences?

How often I feel like those in Jesus' parable that "receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away." (Luke 8:13)

Luke 8:2 shows us that our Lord was not exempt from being tempted. I've wondered, how often He must have been tempted to answer back those who ridiculed Him, for He knew more than all of them put together!

The temptation of Christ has often given me comfort. The other day I found something in the account new to me: the appetite, desire for power, and to go where we shouldn't. Does this sound familiar even today? Thinking on this I realized that Satan didn't promise Jesus happiness or contentment. Neither did he promise Him a home in heaven! Hebrews 4:15,16 says, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Does the stress of some temptations just leave you longing for home? The trials of life--the full surge of their blast--do not usually linger for a great length, and if they do for some reason, have you ever noticed an inner peace, and light, a comfort, a power to pull through? How our Lord will sustain and keep those that trust Him!

Recently I viewed a loved one who went home. It was obvious--the peace that she now feels. Her expression was trouble free, as though she could say, "If you could see what I see!" To endure will be worth it **all, yes, every temptation!**

### YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION

by Horatio R. Palmer

Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin;  
Each victory will help you some other to win.

Fight manfully onward; dark passions subdue;  
Look ever to Jesus: He will carry you through.

Shun evil companions; bad language disdain;  
God's name hold in reverence, nor take it in vain.  
Be thoughtful and earnest, kind-hearted and true;  
Look ever to Jesus: He will carry you through.

To him that o'ercometh, God giveth a crown;  
Through faith we shall conquer though often cast down.  
He who is our Savior, our strength will renew;  
Look ever to Jesus: He will carry you through.

Ask the Savior to help you,  
Comfort, strengthen, and keep you;  
He is willing to aid you:  
He will carry you through.

Vickie L. Witmer  
New Madison, Ohio

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## YOUR JESUS COMES TO OFFER REAWAKENING

Your Jesus comes to offer reawakening.  
Hear this you needy child of man.  
He seeks your spirit to become more radiant,  
And there blind, cold, and sad you stand.

The Lord He comes, the Savior of your spirit.  
Accept Him now this wondrous guest.  
When your heart finds this true and loving bridegroom,  
Your vows to Him will be most blest.

The Lord He comes, all grace and love renewing.

He seeks thee and He longs to find  
Now holy wishes be your thoughts subduing  
Lest losing Him you will stay blind.

The Lord He comes. O man, your heart inflaming;  
Hear it O brothers with belief.  
We sing with joy, our Lord's own advent naming;  
We cast away our pain and grief.

Although He's here, each day marks a new coming.  
As child, He soon became our friend.  
All Christian brothers can relate in spirit  
When He is close or near at hand.

He comes again, among His people dwelling.  
We see the Babe, His star gives light.  
To deeper grace we find its beams impelling  
As holiness shines in our night.

That day will come to all, both good and evil.  
The debts you owe will then be known.  
He calls all to His heavenly court of justice.  
He sits as judge upon the throne.

I call once more: "Dear Jesus, live within me!  
Live in my heart, remove my fear.  
I wait for Thee, as do all Christian people  
To gain Your blessing there and here."

By Christian Metz, a leader of the Community of  
True Inspiration  
Selected by Michael Harris



## RULES FOR DAILY LIFE

**Begin the day with God**

Kneel down to Him in prayer;  
Lift up thy heart to His abode,  
And seek His love to share.

**Open the book of God**

And read a portion there;  
That it may hallow all thy thoughts,  
And sweeten all thy care.

**Go through the day with God**

Whate'er thy work may be;  
Where'er thou art--at home, abroad,  
He still is near to thee.

**Converse in mind with God;**

Thy spirit heavenward raise;  
Acknowledge every good bestowed,  
And offer grateful praise.

**Conclude the day with God**

Who gives His servants sleep;  
And when thou tread'st the vale of death,  
He will thee guard and keep.

Selected

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## HYMN HISTORY

## O For a Closer Walk With God

William Cowper suffered from deep depression for most of his life. Twice he was hospitalized in institutions for the mentally ill. While there he became a Christian through reading the Bible. He wrote "There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood" and "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" among other hymns.

It seemed hymn writing was the best therapy William Cowper could get, but mental illness continued to plague him. Despite his emotional pain, or perhaps because of it, he produced literature of amazing insight.

Cowper became friends with John Newton. Besides their mutual love of poetry, they both had a sense of humor and both loved to take long walks. One morning at Newton's house, Cowper was reading the passage in Genesis that says, "Enoch walked with God." It inspired him to write this hymn:

O for a closer walk with God,  
A calm and heavenly frame,  
A light to shine upon the road  
That leads me to the Lamb.

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Jean Martin  
Nappanee, Indiana

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Success lies in doing not what others consider to be great  
but what you consider to be right.

Paul Kimmel collection

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

### Developing Proper Loyalties

Is it possible to develop the loyalties in our children that Ruth expressed to Naomi, her mother-in-law? Her declaration "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God" is a commitment we covet for ourselves and our posterity.

Admittedly, loyalty for the right cause will not just happen. Rather, it must be nurtured and directed by careful and constant teaching and discipline. Loyalty must be cultivated in school life along with the other upbuilding aspects of life.

For the school to assist in developing proper loyalties, it must project right values and concepts. A spiritual tone must ever pervade the classroom. Spiritual values must be presented of greater importance than material possessions and earthly ambitions.

Loyalty must be presented as the only right way. The Christian graces must be displayed as desirable qualities and not as something weak or sissy. In contrast to popular opinion, the servant mentality needs to be promoted without apology.

School personnel must also display loyalty in order for them to make their proper contribution. Board members and teachers must be examples of faithfulness that inspire the younger ones to be the same.

It becomes clear what loyalty is all about when children can see it illustrated in the life of their teacher. One who is loyal will not talk disparagingly about the church, her teachings, or her members. The loyal teacher is one that is not in frequent conflict with the church. His life will reflect a steadiness that characterizes loyalty.

For the school to aid in developing proper loyalties, it must uphold the plain way of life. Simplicity should adorn the school building and classrooms. Methods of study and learning will be

based on the tried and proven means of the past and will not be subject to the winds of change that blow from many directions.

Dress standards established by the school also assist in begetting proper loyalties. Wearing clothing consistent with the plain way of life and avoiding the fads of the day safeguard against developing loyalties to the world.

To help loyalties grow properly, we must maintain an appreciation to God for what He has wrought. The joy expressed in our lives as adults will enhance the cause we want our children to embrace.

By Dennis W. Martin  
in *The Christian School Builder*

Best wishes to all our readers for a happy new year. With this issue we begin the forty-eighth year of publication of *The Pilgrim*. Praise God for His faithfulness!

Our thanks to all who have helped this past year. Many have written, donated, and prayed. Bill Miller supplies our address labels. Kenneth Martin, Linda Frick, and others have been faithful writers.

Subscriptions expire on the date following your name on the address label. We send no renewal notices because of our mailing method, but may underline or write in red the date on an expired subscription.

We welcome original articles and poems, and suggestions to improve our paper. We also welcome gift subscriptions and names suggested for free sample copies. If you are receiving *The Pilgrim* free or by gift subscription, please let us know if you wish to continue as a subscriber.

"God bless each one" is our prayer.

Leslie and Martha Cover



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## Gentle Gene

At six years old, Gene was rambunctious. He slammed doors, threw toys, grabbed things away from his little sisters, rammed into the walls with his cars and tractors, tore books, and often broke lamps or dishes because of his recklessness.

On his seventh birthday, Daddy had a talk with Gene. "Gene," Daddy said, "you are growing up fast. Do you want to be a real gentleman when you are big?"

"Oh, yes, I do!" Gene answered.

"Well, would you like to start learning to be gentle now?" Daddy asked. "Mother and I will be glad to help you. The years will fly by fast, so if you start practicing gentleness now, you'll be a gentleman when you are big."

"How can I learn to be gentle?" Gene asked.

"To start with, why don't you practice closing doors gently today and tomorrow. Then Wednesday we'll have another talk and decide what you should practice being gentle with next."

So, all day Monday and Tuesday, Gene remembered to close doors gently. Not once did he forget and let a door slam.

On Wednesday morning Daddy said, "Son, you've been very gentle with the doors this week. I'm very happy, and I know you will be a gentleman someday. For today and tomorrow, how about practicing gentleness at mealtimes? Pull your chair out gently, pass the dishes of food gently, ask nicely for food to be passed to you, thank Mother for the meal, leave the table gently, pushing your chair up to the table again. Can you remember all of that?"

"Yes, I can," said Gene. "I can do all of that and still remember not to slam doors."

"Great!" said Daddy. "If you forget sometimes, I'll lay my hand on your shoulder to remind you. Okay?"

"You won't need to remind me, Daddy. I'll remember!" Gene boasted. And he did very well at remembering. Daddy had to lay his hand on Gene's shoulder only two times in the next two days.

After that, Gene worked on other things. The hardest lesson to learn was to be gentle with his little sisters, especially when they messed up his carefully laid-out farms or his neatly lined-up equipment. Daddy and Mother often had to help him learn this lesson.

When Gene was 7 1/2 years old, no one thought of him as rambunctious anymore. "Gentle Gene," people would say, "He'll be a real gentleman some day!"

Linda Frick  
Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (1 John 4:14)"

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## AWAKE

Awake! How can we sleep  
When souls are bound in sin?  
Should we not pray and weep  
That they might freedom win?  
Where are concern, and tears, and prayer?  
How do the lost know that we care?

Awake! In earnest pray;  
First search each our own heart.  
Upon the altar lay  
Ourselves; from sin depart.  
For only when we're free from sin  
Can we a soul for Jesus win.

Awake! Our time employ  
In sincere prayer and praise,  
That we might share the joy  
Of walking in His ways.  
Our apathy through prayer dispel,  
Let love to serve Him us impel.

Miriam Sauder  
Mount Joy, Pennsylvania  
From *Spiritual Hymns*

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## POWER SHORTAGE?

February is not the most enjoyable month. It is cold and often stormy. The school year is becoming long and tiresome. Because of the slant of the sun's rays in our latitude, the days are shorter, colder, and darker. There is more need for power to heat and light our homes. The wood pile is becoming smaller day by day. The drain on electricity is at its peak. Our country is facing power failure or at least power rationing.

II Timothy 3:5 tells that in the last, perilous days there will be those "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." Running short on electrical power may give us some discomfort, but denying and lacking the power of godliness is dangerous. Paul warns us, "From such turn away."

Do we need an example of the power of godliness? Jesus is that example. Godliness is God-likeness. Sooner or later you will meet someone who claims that Jesus is something less than God--perhaps *a* son of God rather than *the only begotten* Son of God. But Jesus was worshiped when He was here in the flesh, He is worthy of our worship now, and He will be worshiped in eternity. Rev. 5:12: "...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

Jesus' life here was a demonstration of the power of godliness. I Tim. 3:16: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." With power He spoke to the wind and the waves and they obeyed. He raised the dead, healed, restored, created food, walked on water, and lived



in purity and perfection. No power in godliness? (It is one of the devil's lies.)

How does it work in our lives? Do we sometimes conclude that it is useless to try to be godly? We read that all have sinned, that "man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward." We feel it in the temptations in our bodies. We see it in the wickedness of a fallen world. Why try if we cannot succeed? This is another of Satan's lies which comes to us in so many forms. Paul writes, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Godliness has a power that is not always apparent. To the world it appears as weakness--a sort of milquetoast, wishy-washy existence. Christians of the past have been known as defenseless and non-resistant, and I hope this describes us, too. *Defenseless* and *powerless* are not synonyms. Paul says, "When I am weak, then am I strong." Things are not always what they seem. He also wrote in the same context, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

This power of godliness may not naturally appeal to young people. The strength of youth is expressed in action, vigor, accomplishment, things that show. And godliness is not showy. Young people, try to see action and accomplishment in spiritual endeavors. There is much to do that requires your vigor and enthusiasm, but it is not like a football game. Your interest in computers shows us that you can use your energy in mind activities and also in spiritual studies and growth (which is godliness.) I Tim. 4:8 seems especially for young people: "For bodily exercise profiteth little: But godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

It takes power to generate power. We understand that the power on earth (water power, wind power, fuel power) comes from the heat and light of the sun. Similarly, the power that we

have available through godliness comes from the "Sun of righteousness. . . with healing in his wings." (Micah 4:2) "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Phil. 2:13) The power of godliness is the power of God Himself and requires no apologies when it flows through His weak children.

How is the power of godliness expressed in your life and mine? When we are godly--when we are like Jesus-- there is a power expressed in joy and satisfaction. It produces a "conscience void of offense." Pride, sin, and self simply do not have power to satisfy. He who has found Jesus--or has been found by Him--has found the pearl of great price. With prosperity and freedom besides, we may be tempted to think God blesses us because of our (imagined) goodness. But this is not so. Paul describes to Timothy those that suppose that gain is godliness, and it seems to fit our times. But Paul turns it around and declares that godliness with contentment is great gain. Again, godliness satisfies powerfully those who are godly.

Godliness has another show of power in a Christian's life. The influence he has on those around him can be positive only by the power of godliness. A lady once expressed admiration for a Bible teacher she respected. "I'd give half my life to know the Word of God so well!" she gushed. "That's about what it would take," a bystander replied. Godliness and its power in the world does not just happen. It is the result of the operation of God on His yielded child.

On the other hand, we are not called to godliness to make others marvel. But if our influence helps others toward godliness in their own lives, then God is using us and being glorified in us.

Are we short on power? James writes, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Power of godliness comes from the same source. Let our delight be in pleasing

Him. Let us study the Word. Let us look to our Example, the Lord Jesus Christ. Was He humble? Let us be humble. Is He concerned for the lost? Is He a pattern of purity and holiness? *Power is not running out.* No one can turn it off. --L.C.

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### THE TIME IS NOW

Most people, including myself, tend to live for the future. This in the proper sense is good, but in relation to moral responsibility and duty to God and our fellow man, the time is now. The present will determine the future. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

Those who have or have had the responsibility of caring for or administering the care and business of those disabled due to age, know the true meaning of the above-quoted Scripture. I wish to say if we want to accomplish and fulfill our duty to God and our neighbor, the time is the present. This is most important relating to attitudes and personalities. It has been rightly said that the only thing that really counts in life is what we do for others.

One of the most important virtues to develop when young is an appreciative and positive personality. This is one of the most valued virtues we can give to those whom we associate with and to those who may need to assist us in times of need. This can be done with the realization that what we do for our neighbor we are doing for our Lord who has done so much for us. The virtues learned while young will benefit and direct throughout life.

Positive attitudes and unselfish love toward others does not come naturally. These attributes take effort to develop. It is human nature to feather our own nest first, but the Scriptures tell us to "love thy neighbor as thyself." This love is not an



infatuation but a sincere desire to benefit others even at our expense. This life style requires effort and sacrifice, but it is possible with the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Another important virtue to cultivate early in life is the realization that sometime we may need to be on the receiving side of brotherly love. Being too proud to accept help can be a frustration to those who see a need and feel responsible to help. Pride and selfishness can make life miserable for ourselves and those about us. These negative attitudes hasten the evil day of old age when the self-centered can say, "I have no pleasure in them."

On the other hand, those who have lived a fruitful life of service to others can with grace accept the limitations of age, and experience the blessings of assistance. My desire is that even if age or affliction creates suffering and restriction, there will always be the pleasure of being surrounded by God's love and those who care.

Joseph E. Wagner  
Modesto, California

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### SELF DENIAL

(The second in a series of three articles by the same author)

Where can true peace be found? Where is true happiness found? Where is rest; and where is joy? Right away we know our answer is, "in heaven."

Although this is true, there is also peace and joy here and now. I Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Notice the word *everything*. Does this mean trials? How would we be thankful for those things? In trials we realize we are nothing without a lot of help from God. Trials bring us as small as we really are.



In a recent sermon we heard, "Our joy should be in the Lord." "The Lord is the strength of my life." (Psalm 27:1) Oh the hope we can have just by counting on Him!

The second reminder in the sermon was, "Happiness is not found in emotion." No, not in the mood swings of the ups and downs.

Again from the sermon: "Happiness is not found in circumstances, in people, or in things." Our minister said, "Look awhile at circumstance. . ." which is what will happen in our day. What about people? Do their influence and moods affect us? Let us look at things. Remember Satan's temptation: "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

Have you ever noticed that getting your own way only brings temporary happiness, or is it really even that? Is there just a desire for more?

Is happiness found through spiritual peace? "Safe in the arms of Jesus," now isn't that security? How can we attain this? Part of the Lord's prayer is "thy will be done. "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." (John 4:34) Am I willing to be shaped like clay? Wouldn't that be a sure security to be safe in the arms of Jesus? To be submissive to God's unchangeable will is security and rest!

All of us mortals are changeable; who can be satisfied? How we are in need today of God's peace! Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. . ." (John 14:27)

What then must I do? "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

Humbly written in His love,

Vicki L. Witmer,

New Madison, Ohio

## THE BIBLE

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter.

Here, heaven is opened and gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward faithful labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

'Tis the Book that has for ages  
Lifted man from sin and shame.  
That great message on its pages  
Will forever be the same.

Never compare the Bible with other books. Comparisons are dangerous. Books speak from earth; the Bible speaks from heaven. Never think or say that the Bible contains the Word of God; it *IS* the Word of God. It is supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in value, infinite in scope, divine in authorship, regenerative in power, infallible in authority, universal in totality. Read it through. Write it down. Pray it in. Work it out. Pass it on. It is the Word of God.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (II Timothy 3:16,17)

"For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." (Psalm 119:89)

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11)

Selected by Margaret Brubaker

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### HEAVENLY POWER

In feeble, faltering human thought,  
We try to comprehend  
The glorious love that Jesus brought;  
The love that knows no end.

Our failing minds but dimly see  
This awesome heavenly power  
That came to save and make us free,  
And with that love empower.

How much we limit that great love  
And feebly struggle on,  
And seek to find our way above  
In human strength alone.

This folly may we now reject  
And human strength disown,  
And let this heavenly power effect,  
Empower, control, alone.

Then will this feeble life receive  
The power that changes hearts,  
The power that calls us to believe,  
That Christ alone imparts.

And if this power can fully rule  
In all our hearts alone,  
Then He will use us as His tool  
And join our hearts as one.

The wondrous things our Lord will do,  
When heavenly love directs  
Our hearts and hands and actions, too,  
And all our thought affects.

We can't conceive how much can be  
Accomplished by our Lord,  
In yielded lives, through hearts made free,  
In hearts of one accord.

James Beery  
Williamsport, Indiana

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#### BIRTHS

BOWSER - A son, Logan Jesse, born January 1 to Eldon and Amy Bowser of Marble Falls, Arkansas.

COVER - A son, Chad Lamar, born January 4 to Joseph and Laura Cover of Sonora, California.

COVER - A son, Amos Wendell, born January 8 to Ben and Jolene Cover of Tuolumne, California.

CABLE - A son, Timothy Dean, born January 18 to Larry and Liana Cable of Dayton, Ohio.

ROYER - A son, Gerald Thomas, born January 31 to Sam and Rosanna Royer of Nappanee, Indiana.



## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

## What Are You Aiming For?

The marksman set up his target and carefully paced off his distance. He made some preliminary adjustments to his new sights and cleaned them thoroughly. Then, patiently sighting down the barrel, he gently squeezed the trigger. "Too low," he murmured to himself as he made a minute adjustment. Again he sighted; again he shot. "Too far to the left." Again he adjusted with care. He sighted and fired again. After several more adjustments, three shots in succession hit their mark.

In order for the school to be successful, we too need some targets, some goals that we place before us as we spend this school term.

Parents, what are you aiming for this year? Set up a target of having your children prepared to study each morning. Make adjustments to give them the time they need after school for drill or homework. Have some goals so that your children will see that school is important to you and that you support the work.

School boards, have you paced off any targets? Have you made the preparations that the school needs to reach its goals? Set up targets that will facilitate the smooth operation of the school throughout the year.

Teachers, you probably have already set up many goals. Aim with care; then make adjustments where they are needed. With God's help, keep your sights clear. If you seem to fall short of the target, do not move the target; make more adjustments to the sights.

Students, you need targets also. Aim to do your best to take advantage of this passing opportunity of school.

Finally, our work is much more important than simply sighting in a rifle. We are in the work of the Lord. There will

be eternal consequences from how we hit the target. What are *you* aiming for?

By Jonathan Reinford in  
The Christian School Builder

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## PRAYING FOR OUR CHILDREN

Do you specifically pray for your children? Not just a "bless Bob and Suzy" kind of prayer, but a prayer that addresses specific concerns. It is possible that parents could watch their children grow up without actually having thought about what they hoped for them. Consider the following list and the possibility of constructing your own list and praying daily for your children.

### Thirty-one Concerns

Salvation, growth in grace, love, honesty, self-control, love for God's word, justice, mercy, respect, biblical self-esteem, faithfulness, courage, purity, kindness, generosity, peace-loving, joy, perseverance, humility, compassion, responsibility, contentment, faith, a servant's heart, hope, willingness to work, passion for God, self-discipline, prayerfulness, gratitude, and a concern for the lost.

Selected by Leona Miller

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## GRATITUDE

As I heard a friend say once, "Every day is a good day, unless you've made other plans." Take time to let the present penetrate your mind. What do you have to be grateful for at this moment? Develop an attitude of gratitude and enjoy your gift.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psalm 90:12)

From the Sonora Community Hospital *Scanner*

## II CORINTHIANS 10:4,5

Father, in the morning hour,  
As we rise to greet the day,  
Direct our thoughts in praise and honor  
To the Creator who knows our way.

Many are the times the tempter  
Clouds our minds with doubt and fear:  
Leaving thus our souls in turmoil  
While time slips away for us here.

Time is too short for bitterness  
Or temptations that lead us to shame;  
Bringing each thought to obedience  
Through Jesus, in His holy name.

Let us purpose in our hearts  
To take captive of every thought,  
Pleading for God's grace and goodness,  
Keeping our minds pure as we ought.

Then as the evening shadows fall  
Again our praise we offer to Thee  
Today may You have been our Guide;  
Thy holiness, Thy purity, has set us free

Becky Miller

Bourbon, Indiana

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ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Dale Savage's phone: (937) 6920-6160

Greg Yoder's phone: (219) 862-1499

Before Thee, dear Father, in meekness I stand;  
As clay I would be in the Potter's hands.  
My heart's desire would be to find  
Someone to love, mature and kind.

I'm struggling to keep my inward thoughts still;  
Concerning this step, I want only Thy will.  
Let me not be deceived by good looks or by fame,  
But choose one for me with a Christian name.

Lead me to someone with virtues of gold  
Whose inward adorning will never grow old.  
Direction and guidance I earnestly seek;  
Without Thee I'm helpless and humanly weak.  
In praise and thanksgiving I'll lift up my voice,  
For Thou art my helper; in this I rejoice.

Selected by Sarah Martin

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CHILDREN'S PAGE: Meek Molly

Meekness is being ready to yield rather than cause trouble; it is being humble and gentle and peaceable. Jesus teaches us to be meek by having lived a meek life Himself. Let's take a few peeps into Meek Molly's life to see how meekness acts.

Daddy slowed the car and put on his turning signal. "Time for a Rest Area break," he said. The family was traveling to visit Uncle Ed and Aunt Sarah.

"Good," said Molly. "It will be great to get out of the car."

"I agree," Mother said.

When Mother and Molly were walking back to the car, Molly saw her fuzzy blue gloves lying on the pavement beside the car. Just then a girl dashed over, picked up those gloves,



and ran to hop into her car. "My gloves!" Molly cried. "Mother, can't we get them back?" But the other car was leaving, and there was no way to stop it.

In the car, Molly and Mother told Daddy and Larry what had happened. "I'd have run after her and yanked her car door open," Larry stated emphatically. "She had no right to take your gloves. The very idea!"

"Oh well, maybe she needed them worse than I do," Molly said. "I have an old pair I can still wear."

"But you won't have them to play in the snow at Uncle Ed's," Larry worried. "That bad girl is a thief!"

"I'm sure Aunt Sarah will have some gloves I can borrow," Molly said. "Let's just let that girl have my gloves and hope they keep her hands cozy-warm."

"That's a good attitude to have," Daddy said. "A Beatitude says, 'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.' What are a pair of gloves compared to the earth?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Soon after they arrived at Uncle Ed's, Aunt Sarah passed a plate of delicious-looking cookies around. As she held the plate, Molly reached for the closest cookie. Quick as a wink, Larry's hand shot across the plate and grabbed that same cookie. "I want that one," Larry said. "It's the biggest!"

Aunt Sarah's face wore a startled expression as she looked at Larry. "How rude!" she seemed to be thinking. Molly simply took another cookie and smiled at Larry.

\*\*\*\*\*

Larry threw a snowball, but it missed Molly and crashed through the porch window. Uncle Ed and Daddy came running when they heard the crash. Larry hid around the corner of the house, so Molly was left alone to tell what had happened. "Larry, come!" Daddy commanded.

"Aw, Daddy, it was an accident," Larry whined as he came around the corner.

"You shouldn't have thrown toward the house," Daddy said.  
"Both of you come in and sit on chairs awhile."

Meekly, Molly obeyed. Larry obeyed, too, but complained the whole time about it not being fair. Then, after sitting for two minutes, his whine changed to "Can I get up now, Daddy? I want to play," and soon he was crying loudly.

After five minutes, Daddy told Molly she may get up and play. Molly smiled and slid off her chair. "Thank you, Daddy," she said.

\*\*\*\*\*

Molly could tell Cousin Archie was close behind her as she ran the Fox and Geese trails. She ran even faster to get away from him, but he hollered. "Gotcha! You're It!"

"Oh, I didn't feel you touch me." Molly said.

"I did, though, and you're It now," Archie answered.

"Okay, I'm It, everyone!" Molly agreed as the fun went on.

Linda Frick  
Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

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## A LOVELY SCENE

Sometimes when I'm at meeting  
I slyly glance around,  
And see that all those present  
Their favorite place have found.

Then when the hymn is chosen,  
I quickly find the place  
And note the lines of sorrow  
On many a careworn face.

They do not dress in fashion  
As other people do,  
Or make themselves attractive,  
Those faithful ones, and true.

The world would not admire them;  
They're lovable to me;  
I know how sympathetic  
Those dear loved ones can be.

In praise and adoration  
To God their voices raise,  
And worship Him by singing  
With words of sincere praise.

They sit with rapt attention  
And hear the preached Word,  
Then go their way rejoicing  
To practice what they've heard.  
--Guy Hootman

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## CROSS OF 2001

*"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27)*

*"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Ga. 2:20)*

*"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Ga. 6:14)*

*"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach." (He. 13:12,13)*

Bearing the cross. Crucified with Christ. Crucified unto the world. Bearing His reproach. These terms are about me! There is a cross for me. The cross means suffering and death. As one man wrote, "When a man carried his cross to be crucified, he had already said goodbye to his friends. He was not coming back. He was not going out to have his life redirected. He was going to have it ended." These thoughts crowd my mind as I think of the cross in my life.

Where is this suffering and death in our modern setting? We read of persecutions in other ages and even in our age in other lands. Where is ours? Is it suffering to sit down to a meal of the finest, tastiest, most nutritious food that modern methods can produce? Is it crucifixion to ride down the highway in a quiet car with air-conditioned comfort on soft, reclining seats? Can we call it suffering when even our major surgeries are done with effective pain killers and the latest in medical skill? Is it



sacrifice to spend a quiet evening at home with soft music and loving family and friends? Surely it is not wrong to have or to do these things. But is it being crucified with Christ? Where is our cross?

Nero lighted his orgies with burning crosses on which hung Christians giving all. Christians have been tortured by every conceivable means. Their cross--their suffering--was visible. The devil could not conquer them, but only prove their faith. But the adversary has more tricks besides physical sufferings.

Satan would have our children. He lays before them the lure of a fun-loving world. But children's fun is not wrong! It is when it comes at the expense of discipline and obedience. Parents, you want your children to enjoy life--perhaps to escape some of the stresses and traumas of your own childhood. But please do not rob them of the privilege of godliness as opposed to the careless, indulgent fancies that our materialistic world presents. Your children will rise up to bless you. They will take pride later in saying, "My parents just would not allow that kind of foolishness," or that fancy dress, or that extravagant toy. If they are taught true values, they will be thankful and pass these values on to their own children. But just one generation of carelessness can break the transfer of this priceless heritage.

For young people, there is still more temptation. Anyone who has grown up in a permissive, affluent culture such as ours, is going to have a struggle sorting out what really counts. Is it cars and four-wheelers? How easy is it to go from snowboarding or other sports to quiet meditation and study of eternal values? Many of these *things* are not wrong in themselves, but they are difficult to use and still exercise in godliness. How can our young people, blessed and protected, get the view of the needs of a world so lacking in comforts and the Gospel? How will they know without being taught, the

folly of changing fads and the provocative, gaudy fashions of the world?

For us adults, Satan also has temptations. We grew up hearing the issues of radios, cars, and Calvinism being debated. It hardly prepared us for TV, computer games, videos, and the internet. Nor were we ready for the tremendous affluence of our modern times. Alongside these things, there is a preoccupation with shopping and the latest fads, clever sayings, humor, sports, and entertainment, all so attractive to the "old man" who is to be crucified.

In colonial times, the Quakers, persecuted in Europe, began to prosper in this new world. Farming opportunities were better here than in England. They could work hard and have good return for their labors. They began to lose their interest in spiritual things. Some of them even owned slaves. Several godly men cried out against the drift into worldliness, and the Quakers returned to godliness and simple living and felt a renewal of the power of God. The remedy for us will be the same: putting Jesus first, a concentration on the Word of God, and a return to holiness.

If these warnings seem too negative, forgive me. But it is important that we be aware of the activities of the adversary who would have not only our attention, time, and energy, but our very souls. It becomes a matter of life or death to escape the corruption of the world around us. We might just have to give up some comforts and fun that seem harmless but take valuable time and resources. It is painful to renounce the very things that appeal to our earthly nature. We reason and squirm, but we know that anything that robs God of our time and energy is more dangerous than it might appear. Is this a cross of 2001?

Might it be a cross to risk the displeasure of our children and young people when we must say no to needlessly expensive food, toys, games, and parties? It shouldn't be, but probably is

a cross to substitute study of the Word and stories of men of faith, for novels and entertaining reading--even some in the "religious fiction" category. One brother said, "As for reading, when I find a story is made up, I don't have much time for it. I can make up my own stories." Is it crucifixion to be satisfied with a less expensive life style so some that are poor might be helped? Is it taking up our cross daily when we make it a goal in the morning to glorify God, even if it means self denial? Galatians 5:24 says, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

The good part is that in Christ, crosses and burdens are not so heavy because He is right beside us, bearing our load, understanding our trials, and rewarding us with His grace and peace.

#### CROSSES OR COMFORTS

Crosses or comforts--which will we choose?  
One leads to glory; the other, we lose.  
Our time and attention God asks for today;  
The world claims us, too--would have us stray  
From the right and the good to the fun and the game,  
To pleasure and humor, the money, the fame.  
But God calls, so patient, so kind and so strong,  
Be holy, be godly, shun sin and all wrong.

Crosses or comforts--we choose each morning:  
Our selfish will--or the doctrine adorning.  
Following Jesus we take up the cross;  
Following pleasure leads only to loss.  
Where is the value, the pearl of great price?  
Follow the Master; take His wise advice.  
Commit to His will all our time and ambition;  
Accepting our crosses in faith and contrition. --L.C.

## PROPHECY BECOMES HISTORY

What has taken place yesterday and before is history. Prophecy is a claim of what will come to pass in the future. With accuracy, prophecy never fails and becomes history, giving man access to wisdom and knowledge that is above human capabilities. This in itself should have all men's attention.

The Holy Bible, the historical account of creation and the fall and restoration of man for a little over six thousand years, should be held in reverent awe by all. It is "God breathed," and all men will be held accountable to its contents. It contains proven wisdom that can not be paralleled in the journals of history.

The first chapter of Genesis gives a general overview of all creation. The second chapter adds details of how it happened and man's position in it.

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. . . And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." (Gen. 2:7-9, 15)

"And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of



my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (Gen. 2:20-23)

The woman came on the scene after God had given instructions in gardening and the consequences of disobedience. It is evident that Adam told Eve what God had said, for when Satan confronted her, she knew the penalty of eating the forbidden fruit.

What God prophesied would happen for disobedience has come to pass and is now history to all men that have experienced physical death. Every woman that has given birth and every man that has tilled the ground (or is providing for life's needs) is experiencing fulfilled prophecy.

Satan is also experiencing the prophetic declaration pronounced upon him: "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Gen. 3:14,15)

When Jesus, the seed of the woman, died on the cross (Satan being the executioner) it only bruised His heel, but when He rose from the grave, it bruised Satan's head. He is now powerless to prevent those that put their faith and trust in the resurrected Lord. This is also now a glorious history to those that have lived and died in faith.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

When all prophecy becomes history (and it will), every soul that has ever lived will find themselves in its fulfillment.

"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they

were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:13-15)

"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." (Rev. 7:13-17)

Kenneth Martin  
Nappanee, Indiana

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### FREEDOM AND LIBERTY: A PROCESS OF ILLUMINATION

For centuries man has been futile in his search for freedom and liberty. This country fought for liberty from England and was victorious. The cry was, "Give me liberty or give me death!" They wanted freedom so much that they risked their lives, and many did die in the bloody struggle. Sadly, most men are not that passionate to find freedom for their souls and to enter into the glorious liberty of Christ, the only true, genuine freedom available. Until we are free from ourselves, we have only a superficial liberty. We enjoy and appreciate the liberty that we have in this country, especially the freedom of worship.

Adam and Eve enjoyed the ultimate liberty--probably what we will experience in heaven. Then they made the first wrong choice that enslaved them to the world and themselves, distancing them from God. But God is merciful and makes a provision for man to make peace with Him, freed from sin. Throughout the Old Testament, animal sacrifices were required; today, Christ has sacrificed Himself and waits for us to fully accept Him and enter His glorious liberty. ". . . He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. . ." (Is. 61:1 as quoted in Lk. 4:18) This describes His whole mission of reaching out and calling, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Mt. 11:28-30) Why is it so difficult for us to accept this and experience ". . . the glorious liberty of the children of God"? (Ro. 8:21)

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." (Ps. 51:17) This is where it *must* start. We must fall to the ground in brokenness with a heart open to God; as the grain falls to the earth and dies, *only then can it bring forth fruit to the glory of God.* (Jo. 12:24) "Whoever loves his lower life will lose the higher; but whoever hates his lower life in this world preserves the higher for eternal life." (Jo. 12:25 Williams New Testament) The choice, then, rests with us as to which life we will pursue. Many want the "higher life" that leads to eternal life but do not want to walk the narrow way. Many covet the benefits, but won't work. Many take the *position*, but not the *participation*.

The problem lies with self, for we can't get anywhere on our own power. It is only when we give up our own wills (become nothing) that we can be joined to His Will (become new). "And (we) shall know the truth, and the truth shall make (us) free.



. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (Jo. 8:32,36) Most things are a process: learning the truth, freedom, all of life is a process. We learn the basic things of Christ, we accept Him, we enter into His salvation, and the process of growth has begun. Eliminating sin is also a process of effort and patience. Open scars of our past also require a process of dealing and healing. It often takes special people, specially trained people, to help us through. Listening with compassion, crying, laughing, accepting, are all needed, for we are to be like Jesus. It takes prayer, fellowship, the breaking of bread together and worship. We are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but to exhort one another. (He. 10:25) The Church is the assembly of believers spiritually interacting in worship and fellowship; bearing one another's burdens and joys; lifting one another up higher.

Without the power of the Holy Spirit within your heart, you won't be free; you won't experience the glorious liberty of the children of God. The Holy Spirit illuminates our souls, revealing all that is there. This is the only way that we can see what is keeping us from the liberty that we should have. He is a brilliant revealer. (Mt. 5:15,16; Ep. 5:13) "But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions (tribulations)." (He. 10:32) They became "gazingstocks" by reproaches and sufferings; they also joined those already in this tribulation. They had become freed from this world and its lower life, and through the liberty of Christ were compelled to join in fellowship those also suffering ill treatment. (v. 33) So the process of illumination urged them deep into the liberty of the children of God, disciplining them to endure the tribulation and enjoy the resulting glory of bearing the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ga. 6:14) These brethren sought fellowship in tribulation; how much more should we today!



In simplicity, the apostle Paul lays it out for us: "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary (opposed) the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." (Ga. 5:16,17) We see how important it is then, to tend to spiritual things. It is necessary for each individual to study the Word daily, to pray, to meditate. This feeds our souls to keep our strength up and exercise the Holy Spirit to a brighter illumination of His Word enabling us to see more clearly how we should walk. This in turn brings us as brethren and sisters, closer to one another in His love and fellowship. We begin to understand one another to a greater degree, and appreciate one anothers strengths, gifts, and even weaknesses. "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, *are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*" (II Co. 3:17,18) --to be continued

Ron Cable

Williamsport, Indiana

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## TREASURES IN HEAVEN

(Third and last in a series of articles by the same author.)

We have recently traveled through the thoughts of *trial* and *self-denial*. This article will be on the positive side: Heaven. I wonder if our vision of Heaven is sometimes so vague that we misplace it in the back of our minds?

Are we like Arnold Palmer, the gold medalist, who was invited to Saudi Arabia? While he was there, King Hussein asked him what he would like for a gift. "Nothing," he said. The king replied, "No, I would like to give you something." So Arnold said, "Okay, I collect golf clubs." So Arnold went

home, and days went by. He started watching for his golf clubs. Would they be gold or have silver on them? He wondered. Days later an envelope came in the mail--not at all what he had thought. What kind of golf club would fit in that? Opening the envelope, he found a \$500 membership in a golf club with access to acres of green turf to play golf on.

Is our vision of Heaven like that? Do we really grasp the extent of eternity? Eternity! Who can say how long that is?

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Mat. 6:19-21)

Where are our hearts, our minds, and our daily energies? I wondered about this as we recently laid a loved one away. These people enjoyed and collected antiques. Did they take any of them with them? No, only thoughts, words, and deeds that went on before them.

Isn't our time our treasure? What will we do with our precious today? As we look at life and our short-term trials, everyone will surely say, "Yes, yes, Heaven will surely be worth it all!

Written in His love,  
Vicki L. Witmer  
New Madison, Ohio

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Who is the pure in heart? Only those who have surrendered their hearts completely to Jesus that He may reign in them alone. Only those whose hearts are undefiled by their own evil--and their own virtues too.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the *Cost of Discipleship*  
Selected by Michael Harris

## HYMN HISTORY

## 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Louisa Stead and her husband were relaxing with their four-year-old daughter at the seaside when they heard a child's desperate cry. Louisa's husband tried to rescue the drowning boy, but in the process the boy pulled Mr. Stead under the water. Both drowned as Louisa and her daughter watched.

Louisa had no means of support, and she and her daughter suffered dire poverty. One morning, when she had no food for the day, she opened the front door and found that someone had left food and money on her doorstep. That day she wrote this hymn:

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take Him at His word,  
Just to rest upon His promise,  
Just to know "Thus saith the Lord."

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more!

Information from The One Year Book of Hymns, compiled and edited by Robert K. Brown and Mark R. Norton @ 1995. Devotions written by William J. Petersen. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

Jean Martin  
Nappanee, Indiana

-----  
BIRTH

FLORA - A son, Dane Patrick, born February 27 to Greg and Elisabeth Flora of Nappanee, Indiana

## CHOICE AND DESTINY

Be ready, for the day is near,  
When all who live the trump shall hear.  
The earth will shake, the rocks will rent,  
And all we see, the Lord will end.

The things with which we work each day  
Will perish then and pass away;  
And e'en the body where we dwell,  
We'll leave to go to Heaven or Hell.

Be ready, for the Saviour came;  
We can be saved through His great name,  
If we will plead His wondrous grace  
And do our best His steps to trace.

Then we will see the heavenly clime.  
When we depart these scenes of time.  
Then we will have what ne'er shall end;  
Great things that we can't comprehend.

Be ready, for if we refuse  
The Saviour's call, then we will lose  
The best of Earth, and when we die,  
To Heaven's clime we will not fly.

Then there will be an awful fate;  
There'll be no hope, 'twill be too late.  
The terrors of the awful place,  
Not one of us would want to face.

Be ready, for that place is real;  
And many will its terrors feel  
And suffer there in deep despair.  
They'll know they chose what brought them there.

How sad 'twould be, the Judge to face,  
To be condemned to that sad place.



Oh! Use your time while still you may!  
Flee Hell! Serve Christ! and live His way!

Be ready! Oh! I plead with you!  
Choose life today! The truth pursue!  
For only while 'tis called today,  
Do we have power to choose the way.

We know not when our time is o'er,  
When God will say we've time no more.  
Today we choose where we will be  
And what will be our destiny.

James Beery  
Williamsport, Indiana

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CHILDREN'S PAGE: Thoughtful Thelma

"Mother, may I take Mrs. Shank's paper in to her? I think she must be sick," Thelma said.

"Certainly you may, dear," Mother answered. "Just be careful crossing the road. You may visit with Mrs. Shank for fifteen minutes if you think she'd like that."

Thelma stopped at the edge of the road and looked right, then left, then right again to be sure no cars were coming. Then she walked across the road, got Mrs. Shank's newspaper out of the box, and skipped up the walk to the house. She rang the doorbell and waited. Finally she heard Mrs. Shank calling, "Come in."

"Hello, Mrs. Shank," Thelma greeted her neighbor. "How are you feeling?"

"Oh, I'm not a bit good," Mrs. Shank answered. "I have such a cough that I can hardly get my breath at times. I'm so weak, I can't even get my dishes washed."

"Let me wash your dishes," Thelma offered. "Mother said I may stay fifteen minutes if you'd like me to. I can get that

sinkful of dishes washed in fifteen minutes--or, at least most of them."

"How thoughtful of you, Thelma. I'd be so glad to have those dishes washed." Mrs. Shank sank down onto a chair and began coughing and coughing.

Thelma hurried to the sink and began stacking the dishes and preparing to wash them. Then she spied a bottle of cough medicine. Taking it and a spoon, she offered it to Mrs. Shank, who gratefully swallowed some of the cough syrup. "Thank you!" she gasped between coughs.

Back to the sink Thelma went and began washing dishes. She hurried, but still worked carefully. Soon all the dishes were clean and neatly stacked in the drainer.

"I have three minutes left, Mrs. Shank. Is there something else you'd like me to do?" Thelma asked.

By this time, Mrs. Shank had stopped coughing and could talk again. "No, dear girl, I don't think there is. It is so thoughtful of you to notice I needed a little help. Thank you so much!"

"I'll see if Mother will let me come over again tomorrow and do up your dishes," said Thoughtful Thelma as she opened the door. "Good-bye for now," and away she skipped.

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

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## THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY

There is a green hill far away,  
Without a city wall,  
Where the dear Lord was crucified,  
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,  
What pains He had to bear,  
But we believe it was for us  
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven;  
He died to make us good,  
That we might go at last to heaven,  
Saved by His precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
To pay the price of sin;  
He only could unlock the gate  
Of heaven and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has He loved!  
And we must love Him too,  
And trust in His redeeming blood,  
And try His works to do.

-Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

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## AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

There is a special place for Christians: at the foot of the cross of Jesus. Here we see the blood given in atonement for our sins. Here we see the love of God for His truant creation. Here we are commissioned and challenged to go and bring our children and others to this blessed place. Here we see ourselves in the spotlight of our desperate need. Here we find acceptance and forgiveness--and grace for each trial.

From the foot of the cross, we look up to Jesus as a child looks to his parents. The child cannot possibly comprehend all that his parents have done for him--all the sacrifices they have made, sleep lost, pleasures given up, life style altered--but also the abounding love, the fond hopes, the joy in seeing the child grow and make good choices. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." The child cannot appreciate all that has taken place, but he loves to belong to the family of his parents; he finds acceptance there.

At the foot of the cross, history falls into place; the story makes sense. In our modern "enlightened" time so many are doubting. In our yesterday's newspaper, the brilliant professors were commenting on and questioning the truth of the Exodus of Israel from Egypt. The article was entitled "Exodus Debated Even As Passover Nears." One statement, contradictory to say the least: "The saga of Israel's Exodus from Egypt is neither historical truth nor literary fiction. It is a powerful expression of memory and hope, born in a world in the midst of change." They cited men with different views about the past, but ignored what God has said. I feel free to doubt their conclusions and



believe the everlasting Word of God. At the foot of the cross we understand that God delivered Israel much like we are delivered personally from sin and bondage. It is no wonder that God values simple belief.

At the foot of the cross we see God's love expressed not only in words ("Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do") but in action as Jesus laid down His life for our sins. One brother used to say, "Love and hate met at the cross and love conquered." To look upon the pierced body of the Savior, one would hardly call it victory. But wait for the end of the story. Jesus had told His disciples that He would rise again, and they did not believe. But three days later on resurrection morning, the victory was clear. Jesus died to conquer sin in our lives, but He conquered death as well. Thus Paul could exclaim in writing: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

At the foot of the cross we see ourselves--tainted, corrupted by sin, but made clean by the Savior. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." At the cross we understand that God found a way--apparently the only way we could be redeemed.

At the foot of the cross we feel a burden for the lost. We read that there is room for all--all may come to this place and be washed in the blood of the Lamb. In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus says to bid them to come and even compel them to come. At the cross we sense the needs of a dying world, for here God is opening the way. Just because many pass by and ignore an open door does not prove that there is no open door.

Neither does it prove there is no need when the majority ignore that need. God says that all have sinned. Hebrews 2:3 says, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" At the cross we feel the weight of the commission of Jesus, "Go ye into all the world. . ." That means next door as well as Nigeria. The open door is the strait gate. To enter calls for commitment. But most people are not unwilling to support or sacrifice for something they really believe in--whether it protecting abused animals or saving the spotted owl. At the cross we get priorities straight. We see the real need of men and women to believe the record God gave of His Son.

At the foot of the cross we must lose our self-centeredness and even our individualism, because if we belong to the One who hung there, we are part of something greater than just us. We are members of Christ's body, members one of another. We see the love of Jesus poured out for all, and we hear His words: "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." Here we become inspired to love and serve the way Jesus did. We would stay here where there is so much to learn and experience. And we may linger and remain. Physically, it would not work, but in the Spirit, we stay at the foot of the cross while we serve one another and minister to the needy of the world.

In humble submission, let us with an "eye of faith" gaze up on the dreadful scene of the Savior on the cross giving His life blood for us. Let us worship Him as our gracious God, praise Him as our risen Redeemer, obey Him as our loving Lord, and serve Him as our conquering King. Hallelujah! --L.C.

#### AT THE CROSS

Come to the cross, you sinful and forsaken;  
Come bow before the pierced feet of Christ the Lord;  
Come worship the King crowned with thorns and broken;  
Come listen to His gracious, loving words.

"Father forgive them," as He dies He cries,  
"They know not what they do" His painful prayer.  
Gaze on the scene with tearful, faith-full eyes,  
And see your loving Savior hanging there.

Not for His own sin He hangs and suffers,  
But for all of mine and yours and theirs.  
He bore our sins in His own sinless body,  
Freeing all who come with tears and cares.

Hallelujah to the bleeding, suffering Savior;  
By His pain our souls are saved from death.  
He will reign as King and God forever;  
Serve Him, praise Him till your latest breath. -L.C.

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## FREEDOM AND LIBERTY: A PROCESS OF ILLUMINATION (continued from last issue)

### **The Light on Our Path**

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors (under obligations--Williams N. T.), not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Rom. 8:12-14) I want to stress *for as many as are led by the Spirit of God*. It is vital that each individual carefully possess the Spirit, for our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. (I Cor. 3:16) We should listen to the promptings, for if we are open, we will be led. The Holy Spirit is the Light on our path, leading us into all Truth, and showing us how to walk the narrow way.

"How, then, should we live?" is the cry of many. To some it doesn't matter. To others "going to church" is enough. Is this



"fruit unto holiness"? (Rom. 6:22) · Hardly! But then some groups legislate to their members how to live, what to wear, what to have and not have. Does this produce fruit unto holiness? Is there anything in this world that we can put on to make us more holy and less worldly? "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. . . For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (I Cor. 3:1,3) Since the ceasing of their persecution, the "plain people" have had a problem with strife and division. Recently there was another division. How sad God must be to see His children falling out with one another over worldly things! Does this illumine our path? Does non-conformity bring us into conformity with Christ? Is strife, bickering, division the fruit of a transformed, renewed mind?

We have a much higher calling. "I call upon you, therefore, brethren, through the compassions of God, to present your bodies a sacrifice--living, sanctified, acceptable to God--your *intelligent* service; and be not conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, for your proving what is the will of God--the good, and acceptable, and perfect." (Rom. 12:1,2 Young's literal translation) Until our minds are renewed and transformed (illuminated) by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will not have the "*intelligence*" (of God) to fulfill the "proving" of God's will. Until we are "sanctified," we will not have this transformation; so it should humble each person to seek wholeheartedly the fullness of Christ, conformed to His image. (Rom. 8:29) Only on this high, illuminated "*intelligence*," will we know "*the good, and acceptable, and perfect*" will of God. Then our conformity to Christ and His Word results in non-conformity to the world. Then we can understand from the heart what modesty is, what proper adornment is. (I Tim. 2:9,10; I Pet. 3:3-5) Yes, we can say



with Job, "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me. . ." (Job 29:14); I am now "clothed with humility." (I Pet. 5:5)

Jesus asked, "Why take ye thought for raiment. . .?" (Mat. 6:28) "Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" (v. 31c) We can concentrate too much on these things. We need to keep our minds uncluttered from worldly things, and clearly focused on His Word and heavenly things, for here is where we find genuine liberty. We are warned about judging one another's liberty: ". . .Why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?" ". . .Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (I Cor. 10:29,31) There are clear principles to be followed in the New Testament, e.g. modesty in dress, humility, peace; but it must be followed by each individual believer from the illumined heart casting the light on the path.

### **Who Shall Separate Us From the Love of Christ?**

Romans 8:35-39. We should also ask, "*What shall separate us?*" "Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness (destitution), peril and sword" did not separate the early Christians from the love of Christ and one another. *How ashamed we should be today of the petty things that are separating us from the love of Christ and one another!* "For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted (encouraged), *being knit together in love*, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col. 2:1-3) Love is the greatest of all principles; it is a *command* greater than all the commandments. Without it we are lost. Love holds us together (I Cor. 5:14), so without it we fall apart, as we see today. Oh that we could be knit together, tightly woven into a garment of praise. (Isa. 61:3) After all, love is the sign that identifies His disciples. (John 13:35)

"The love is long suffering, it is kind, the love doth not envy, the love doth not vaunt itself, is not puffed up, doth not act unseemly, doth not seek its own things, is not provoked, doth not impute evil, rejoiceth not over the unrighteousness, and rejoiceth with the truth; all things it beareth, all it believeth, all it hopeth, all it endureth. The love doth never fail; and whether there be prophecies, they shall become useless; whether tongues, they shall cease; whether knowledge, it shall become useless; for in part we know, and in part we prophesy; and when that which is perfect may come, then that which is in part shall become useless." "Pursue the love, and seek earnestly the spiritual things. . ." (I Cor. 13:4-10; 14:1a Young's literal translation) It is truly "the love," for it is divine, agape love that can do all things. Jesus has promised that if we seek, we will find; if we knock, it will be opened. (Matt. 7:7; Luke 11:9) If we pursue the love and earnestly seek the spiritual things, then we will find glorious fruit, the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Gal. 5:22,23) *This is the evidence of the Spirit within us.* We must examine ourselves, ". . . whether (we) be in the faith; prove your own selves. . ." (II Cor. 13:5)

Can we not see, then, how we should live? Is the world or the Word motivating us? Can we not see that nothing should separate us from the love of Christ? When we are fully alive in His Spirit and immersed in His Word, we are *"more than conquerors through him that loved us."* (Rom. 8:37) Jesus has left us the perfect example. Let's intensely study it instead of men's philosophies which spoil us (Col. 2:8), for ". . . to be spiritually minded is *life and peace*." (Rom. 8:6; Col. 3:1-3)

We have concentrated on the individual's being illuminated and do not want to neglect the illumination of the collective assembly. But the only way to have this collective illumination is for each individual believer to have it; then there is great love

and power when we come together. It is also important that we discuss the Scriptures and ideas to help keep ourselves balanced. We are commentaries one to another. Not that we all must agree on every point, but that in essentials we have unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in everything love. We help one another in our separation from the "unclean thing." (II Cor. 6:17) We help one another in "perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (II Cor. 7:1; Phil. 2:14-16) We carefully walk together ". . . as strangers and pilgrims," keeping ourselves from carnal lusts which war, mar, and scar our soul; walking in the Light, as Jesus is our "radiant energy" (Webster's Dictionary - light) making our burdens light. (I Pet. 2:11; Eph. 5:8-11)

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (what he does) (James 1:25) "Study (be diligent) to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Tim.. 2:15) "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free. . ." (Gal. 5:1)

Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp, and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine! --Charles H. Scott

Ron Cable  
Williamsport, IN

-----  
God the Father praised His Son. Surely it is a good thing  
for us to praise our children. --From a reader

## THE HEAVENLY WAY

See, up the road, an endless throng  
Is marching on the way.  
A blood bought host with joyous song,  
Up to the heavenly day.

There, just ahead, I see our son,  
Who left us years ago;  
And over there, as they move on,  
I see our parents go.

And far away in brighter light,  
I see the martyrs too.  
How wondrous is this glorious sight,  
Of those, the tried and true.

And at the end, I see the One  
Who built this narrow way;  
The heavenly Savior, God's own Son,  
And now I hear Him say:

"Come unto me, you burdened one,  
And I will give you rest,  
For only here can rest be found.  
This narrow way is best."

No vile and sinful ones are there,  
But just the kind and meek,  
Who in compassion help to bear  
The burdens of the weak.



And as I view this narrow way,  
I see the Father's hand;  
Protecting, keeping, those each day,  
Who are His faithful band.

And if we'll walk this narrow way,  
And to the end endure,  
We'll be with them in glorious day,  
Eternally secure.

James Beery  
Williamsport, Indiana

---

### HIS HANDS

The hands of Christ  
Seem very frail  
For they were broken  
By a nail.

But only they  
Reach heaven at last  
Whom these frail, broken  
Hands hold fast.

--John Richard Moreland

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### MEETING NOTICES

March 31--April 1 Bradford, Ohio

May 19-20 Wakarusa, Indiana

June 1, 2, & 3 Annual Meeting, Salida, California

All are welcome to any of these meetings. Come and bring  
your friends.

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

## Preserving the Fire

In the bitter cold of the Far North, a group of explorers huddled together. Survival was impossible unless they could start a fire. But a strong wind made starting a fire difficult, and match after match burst into flame only to die away. Finally, one single match remained. With this match the group lived or died. Imagine their care to shield it from the wind, to do everything in their power to keep it burning. Imagine their intense interest as this match was struck.

We too live in a cold world, our lives threatened by the biting winds of carnality and wickedness. We, God's people, huddle together to shelter ourselves from the freezing influences about us, to kindle and nurture the lifesaving fire of spirituality. Preserving this fire should be our utmost concern. Nothing else in life is half as important. We live or die with the spirituality among us.

Spiritual fires must be kept burning at school as well as at home and at church. For this reason we start each school day with a devotional period. We seek to direct our children's minds to the most important side of life before looking into natural studies. Teachers, are our devotionals prepared with this burden of heart--every time? Do we *strive* to point our students to God? How diligently do we tend the fire?

Is it not also true that Bible lessons are the most important lessons in our entire curriculum? Lessons for younger children are of a factual nature, but they are developing attitudes toward God and His Word. In lessons for students who are Christians we apply the Word more directly. What a weight of responsibility rests on a teacher's shoulders as he leads in every Bible study. If he does not stir the fire and add fuel to it, he fails terribly. God help us never to have boring Bible classes!

Spiritual interests are further influenced by the teacher's conduct throughout the day, in everything from science classes to music periods to recess times. Students will not say, "My teacher loves the Lord and I want to, too," or "I don't see much need for spiritual things because my teacher doesn't." These thoughts may not even run through their conscious minds. But subconsciously they will be drawn to appreciate and respect spiritual values as their teacher does. Teachers, do we show a warmth of spiritual fervor that will draw our students closer to the fire of life?

The world is cold. Its chill will numb and kill. Let us put forth every effort to preserve the fire that will preserve us.

By Ernest D. Wine

in *The Christian School Builder*

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### BARABBAS' SUBSTITUTE

"And Pilate released Barabbas. . .and delivered Jesus. . .to be crucified." --Mark 15:15

What didst thou think upon that day,  
Barabbas, malefactor vile,  
Awaiting agony and death  
    In that short while,  
When to thy prison door one came  
And said, "Barabbas, thou art free;  
Another man will take thy place  
    And die for thee"?

With awe and trembling wonder filled,  
Thou must have followed to the place  
Where He was nailed upon thy cross,  
    To see His face;

Thou must have marked thy fellow thief,  
And listened to his pleading cry,  
And heard the confident, clear voice  
That made reply.

Thou must have owned thy lasting debt  
To Him whose death for thee sufficed,  
And said, "This man is more than man;  
This is the Christ."

You must have felt thy hardened heart  
With love and gratitude o'erflow  
To Him who bore thy punishment,  
And let thee go.

And shall my own heart love Him less?  
For, as He died that day for thee--  
Barabbas, murderer and thief--  
And set thee free,  
So, when my guilty soul deserved  
The law's extremest penalty,  
He died, my sinless Substitute,  
Instead of me.

--Annie Johnson Flint

---

### BIRTHS

MARTIN - A daughter, Margaret Rachel, born March 25 to  
Neil and Lois Martin of New Paris, Indiana.

STALTER - A son, Riley Sinclair, born April 3 to Simon and  
Abigail Stalter of Goshen, Indiana.

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### ADDRESS CHANGE

Keith Rhoades: 902 Arrowhead Drive, Apt. 12  
Oxford, OH 45056 (513) 524-9510



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## Loving Lily

"Oh, you dear puppy! I just love you so much!" Lily said as she hugged her wriggling puppy. "You're so soft and cuddly, and you love me, too, don't you? Here's your Puppy Chow. Eat it while I go eat my breakfast, okay? You dear, sweet puppy!"

At the breakfast table, Mother said, "Lily and I will go help Grandma houseclean her living room today. I'll leave some food in the refrigerator for you and the boys, Daddy. You can heat it up for your lunch. We should be home by 5 o'clock."

"Going to Grandma's, going to Grandma's. I'm glad we're going to Grandma's," sang Lily as she skipped out to tell her puppy bye. "Be a good puppy today," she told him.

"Hi, Grandma!" Lily said as she gave Grandma a big hug and a kiss. "I'm so glad to come see you. And I want to tell you about my sweet, sweet puppy. Oh, Grandma, I do love my puppy so much! He's such a good little puppy! He's just no bother at all, and he licks me all over my face. Mother says that's his way of kissing me, so I know He loves me, too." Lily stopped to catch her breath.

"I think you forgot about all the trouble your puppy got into yesterday, Lily," Mother said. "What all did he do? Pulled on your dress till it tore, bit your finger so hard it bled, dug a big hole in my flower bed, chased the chickens, and chewed a little kitty nearly to death. Was there any other trouble he got into?"

"But he didn't mean to be naughty, Mother," Lily answered. "He really doesn't know any better, so I forgave him. Besides, he's so dear, I can't remember the bad things he does for loving him so."

"I see," Mother smiled and began talking to Grandma about cleaning the living room.

There's a verse in Proverbs that says, "Hatred stirreth up strifes, but love covereth all sins." (Pro. 10:12) This little story shows how that works. When we love something or somebody, we don't remember, or think about, any bad things they do. Neither do we like to hear others tell bad things about them, so we try to make excuses to "cover up" for them.

Linda Frick  
Gettysburg, Ohio

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### BETRAYAL

Still as of old  
Men by themselves are priced--  
For thirty pieces Judas sold  
Himself, not Christ. --Hester H. Cholmondeley

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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

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## ARE ALL THE CHILDREN IN?

Are all the children in? The night is falling,  
And storm-clouds gather in the threatening west;  
The lowing cattle seek a friendly shelter,  
The bird glides to her nest.  
The thunder crashes: wilder grows the tempest,  
And darkness settles o'er the fearful din;  
Come, shut the door and gather round the hearthstone.  
Are all the children in?

Are all the children in? The night is falling,  
When gilded sin doth walk about the streets.  
Oh, "At the last it biteth like a serpent!"  
Poisoned are the stolen sweets.  
Oh mothers, guard the feet of inexperience,  
Too prone to wander in the paths of sin!  
Oh, shut the door of love against temptation!  
Are all the children in?

Are all the children in? The night is falling.  
The night of death is hastening on apace:  
The Lord is calling, "Enter thou thy chamber  
And tarry there a space."  
And when He comes, the King in all His glory,  
Who died the shameful death our hearts to win,  
Will shut the gates of heaven about us  
With all the children in!

--Elizabeth Rosser

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## MOTHERS

Mothers come in all shades and sizes, Jew and Gentile, bond and free. Some of the Saviour's best examples of faith come from Gentiles--one from a Gentile mother.

To the Jews, Gentiles were little better than animals. It reminds us of the slaves in the past of our own nation: they were considered on the level of beasts--having speech but no soul. I think Jesus used the faith of Gentiles to show the folly of this type of thinking. This country's Declaration of Independence stated the equality of all men when the document says: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. . ."

She was evidently a Phoenician--of the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. The time was a rare instance when Jesus left His country of Israel. (All countries are "His," but His birthplace was Jewry.) This Gentile mother had a daughter that was "grievously vexed with a devil." The way she came to Jesus and persistently appealed to Him are examples both of faith in God and faithful motherhood.

She addressed Him, "O Lord, thou Son of David." For the Gentile mother to acknowledge Him as Lord and Son of David showed respect not limited by nationality. People then were probably at least as conscious as we are of national differences: dialects or accents, dress customs, physical appearance. But here was respect beyond all this: "O Lord!"

She stated her problem, no doubt with all the zeal and emotion only a mother can display: "My daughter is grievously vexed with a devil." Surprisingly, the Saviour ignored her,



didn't even answer. The disciples said, "Send her away, for she crieth after us." We can see some prejudice in their plea.

Jesus' next words reminded her of her status, something other than a sheep of Israel: "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." True to motherhood, she was not turned away. She worshipped Him saying, "Lord, help me."

Jesus answered again, "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs." I think only a mother could stay under such an insult. A man would have turned away in indignation. Was Jesus out of character here? Was He giving way to popular prejudice that saw all but pure Jews as second-rate, sub-standard, dogs? No, our Lord never turned away true seekers, and here was a mother who could take any insult, bear any reproach, take any place, because her faith told her, "Here is the Master who can heal my daughter if He only will." What a lesson in faith did Jesus bring out of this encounter--for us and for all time!

This mother's reply showed not only quick thought, but also humble acceptance of a place we all occupy in comparison to our mighty Saviour: "Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

Jesus' answer showed what He knew all along: "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." With the word from the Master, the daughter was made whole.

Let us glean from this true account some Mother's Day lessons:

This dear mother had *faith*, faith that knows no limit of God's power; faith that is alive and well, and growing like a mustard seed, faith that is willing to take a lowly place, because we know God is in charge and does all things well and will make all things right.

*Persistence.* This woman was like the widow in Luke 18 that appealed to an unjust judge for help. He finally helped her as he said, "Lest by her continual coming she weary me." Jesus

said, "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?"

Jesus says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." He pointed out that even earthly fathers (or mothers) know how to give good gifts to their children: "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? . . . If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

***Worship.*** Here is a New Testament example of one who worshiped Jesus. Let us do the same. "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

Mothers come by these good qualities somewhat easier than others, it seems. How thankful we should be for the virtues our godly mothers displayed and are displaying. --L.C.

### MOTHERS

Who is dearer than our mothers?  
Who could take their place so true?  
Theirs is love surpassing others,  
Constant, free, and ever new.

Yet a mother's love will fail us;  
Only God can see us through  
Doubts and fears that oft assail us;  
His is love beyond our due.

God has given us dear mothers;  
Fathers, too, with steady arm.  
God's provision soon discovers  
Sin that tries to do us harm.

So then stand with growing wisdom:  
Children favored more than others;  
Bear the cross and stand as Christians,  
Thankful for our loving mothers. --L.C.

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### WHAT DEFINES A CHRISTIAN?

There are millions of people scattered over this world with different traditions, and yet all are human. Hundreds of nationalities and different colors of skin, and yet all have the same makeup--head, arms, legs. All claim to be from this or that country, but all from the same country in the beginning. All mankind have the same origin. Who was the ancestor of whom we are descendents? Adam? Yet he is only our mortal connection to our real beginning. For Adam was created by God, becoming the son of God, not as Christ is the Son of God, for Christ is one with God and came forth from heaven. But Adam was created from the dust of the earth by the hands of God, of whom we are all descendents.

So what makes us Christian? Through our accepting that we are all descendents from Adam and therefore the descendents of God, are we Christians? Animals were formed by God also. They were given the breath of life, but the Bible does not say that the animals were made in God's image or given dominion over the earth as man was. It takes more than an acceptance of our origin to be called Christians.

In the beginning man communicated with God face to face, and nothing was required other than to enjoy all that God had given. When sin entered the world 6000 years ago, it all changed. Man was banished from the beautiful Eden and instructed to till the earth in order to be nourished. Going from eating from the hand of God to being told to till the earth was

quite a shock. What kind of God does a thing like that? A just and righteous God, in whom there was undoubtedly anguish at the sin of His creation.

It didn't take long for man's ability to sin to show again. Cain slew his brother in a jealous rage, and from then on was punished by the mark of a murderer. Man was consumed with thoughts and intents of evil continually, so that the whole world was evil except one family, and God destroyed the world with a flood. We are not Christians by simply living to our own enjoyment.

Finally God called Moses up to the mount of Sinai to receive the laws necessary to become God's people. At that very time the children of Israel were caught up in idolatry, so that 3000 had to pay the price of death. The law came to proclaim right and wrong and to condemn and punish evil. But again man proved, even with the law present among them, they could not remain faithful to God. The law pointed out our shortcomings but provided no salvation. We cannot become Christians by simply obeying a set of laws, because mankind is prone to sin and will then be condemned to die because of their failings. God made a much better way, and it is the only way we can truly become Christians in the sight of God.

God knew that without His presence in our lives, we could never attain unto the perfection necessary to be like Him. He also knew that legalism condemns to judgment. If there were no better way, none could enter again into the Garden of Eden and walk with the Father of life. Then the Father sent Jesus to bear the cross and take upon Him the sin of the world. Through Jesus is the better way. God loved the world enough that He sent His only begotten Son into the world that all that believe on Him might have eternal life in Heaven. This, therefore, is the answer to what it takes to be a Christian, to start down the road to Heaven.



We cannot by our own strength be saved--neither by the law nor by defining Christianity by legalism. There is only one way to have any hope of eternal bliss. We must come to the foot of the cross and look upon our dying Savior and say, "Lord, I believe that Thou art the Son of God that taketh away the sin of the world, and in Thy hand is the power to take away my sin. For whosoever believes on the Son of God shall not perish but have everlasting life. By admitting that we are sinners in need of grace, and looking to the One who is able to forgive, we are able to enter into the household of faith and be Christians.

God sent His Son into the world to die in our place, and upon our belief, He gives us another gift, and this is where Christianity is truly defined and made known in the world. God knew that without His presence in our lives, we would not be able to keep ourselves in His will. So God gave us His Spirit to dwell within us that we might know His will. In this we are known, for His spirit is known in actions of love and kindness. The Spirit within us defines us, whether we love the Lord our God with all our heart and desire to do all that pleases our God. There is no better defining point of our lives than whether or not we are in tune with the Master, shown by the action and words of our lives. This is truly what defines whether or not an individual is a true Christian.

Accepting Christ is the start, but we spend our lives learning and doing His will with the presence of His Spirit within us to lead the way. This identifies a true Christian.

Condensed from a longer writing by

John L. Beery

Williamsport, Indiana

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#### MEETING NOTICES

May 19-20 Wakarusa, Indiana

June 1, 2, & 3 Annual Meeting, Salida, California

All are welcome to these meetings. Bring your friends.

## OBITUARY

BUFORD LEE FLORA, youngest son of C. J. and Pauline Flora, was born May 30, 1943, in Piqua, Ohio. He departed this life peacefully in the early morning hours of March 27, 2001, at the age of 57 years, 9 months, and 27 days.

Buford grew up and attended school around the Gettysburg area. He helped his father with the farming and worked as a carpenter as a young man.

On May 6, 1967, he was united in marriage to Joan Miller. They walked life's pathways together for almost 34 years. In September, 1970, he, together with his companion accepted Christ as his Saviour and was baptized. He enjoyed sharing his faith with those he met.

The family lived in several different localities over the years, making for a varied and interesting life. Wherever Buford was, he enjoyed nothing better than making new friends and visiting with old ones.

Surviving with his wife are 4 sons: Greg (companion: Elisabeth), Derek (companion: Racine), Ryan and Kenton (at home); 4 daughters: Kim Beery (companion: Stephen), Suzanne Coning (companion: Thad), Martha Royer (companion: Merrill), and Rachel (at home); 14 grandchildren; 2 half brothers: Raymond Flora and Hubert Flora; 3 half sisters: Juanita Sink, Virginia Peters and Ann Bowman; 2 brothers: Hollis and Wade; 4 sisters: Etta Mae Garber, Mildred Denlinger, Thelma Garber, and Lucille Bussey.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a stillborn son, Bradley Wayne; a sister Elda; a brother C. J. Jr.; and a half brother, Paul.

The funeral was held March 27 with burial following in the Old Brethren cemetery beside the meetinghouse near Wakarusa, Indiana.

He will be greatly missed by family and friends. Even so, death was like a welcome friend which made it possible for our loved one to go on to his eternal reward.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the loving support shown us during Buford's illness--all the prayers offered, the cards and letters we received, the acts of kindness, and the financial help. We thank you.

The Family

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### LOOKING FOR THE SUNRISE

I'm not looking for the sunset  
As the swift years come and go;  
I am looking for the sunrise  
And the golden morning glow,  
Where the light of heaven's glory  
Will break forth upon my sight,  
In the land that knows no sunset  
Nor the darkness of the night.

I'm not going down the pathway  
Toward the setting of the sun,  
Where the shadows ever deepen  
When the day at last is done;  
I am walking up the hillside  
Where the sunshine lights the way,  
To the glory of the sunrise  
Of God's never ending day.

Author unknown    Selected by Sharon Wells

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### BIRTH

WAGNER - A son, Dylan Joseph, born February 13 to David and Mona Wagner of Liberty, Kentucky.

## HYMN HISTORY

## O Sacred Head Now Wounded

This hymn comes from a poem originally having seven sections, each focusing on a wounded part of the crucified Saviour's body: His feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, and head. It is attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux.

Bernard was a nobleman by birth but gave up his life of luxury to follow Christ. He became a monk (Luther called him the best monk that ever lived.) The monastic life was often one of withdrawal. Monks had their own communities, which were largely self-sufficient. Thus they could work and pray in relative solitude, focusing exclusively on Jesus and His joy. But Bernard broke out of that system. If Jesus was going to "chase the dark night of sin away" and "shed o'er the world His holy light" as Bernard wrote in the hymn "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts," He would surely use devoted Christians to do it. At the age of twenty-five, he was sent to start a new monastery in a place called the Valley of Wormwood. He and his followers changed the name to Clairvaux and transformed the desolate land, which had been a haunt for robbers, into a haven of blessing. Peasants were taught about agriculture and vine culture, and the valley began to blossom. Other monasteries were established and poverty-stricken areas revived--within his lifetime, 162 of them.

Above all else, Bernard was a student of Scripture and a lover of Jesus Christ. In his own day he was known as a preacher and churchman; today he is remembered for his hymns of praise.

O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns Thine only crown;



O sacred Head, what glory,  
What bliss till now was Thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory,  
I joy to call Thee mine.

Information from *The One Year Book of Hymns*, compiled and edited by Robert K. Brown and Mark R. Norton @ 1995. Devotions written by William J. Petersen. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

Jean Martin  
Nappanee, Indiana

---

CHRIST IS ALL

I entered once a home of care,  
For age and penury were there,  
Yet peace and joy withal;  
I asked the lonely mother whence  
Her helpless widowhood's defence,  
She told me, "Christ is all."  
Christ is all, all in all;  
She told me, "Christ was all."

I stood beside a dying bed,  
Where lay a child with aching head,  
Waiting for Jesus' call;  
I marked his smile, 'twas sweet as May,  
And as his spirit passed away,  
He whispered, "Christ is all."  
Christ is all, all in all;  
He whispered, "Christ is all."

I saw the martyr at the stake,  
The flames could not his courage shake,  
Nor death his soul appall;

I asked him whence his strength was given--  
He looked triumphantly to heaven,  
And answered, "Christ is all."  
Christ is all, all in all;  
And answered, "Christ is all."

I saw the gospel herald go  
To Afric's sand and Greenland's snow,  
To save from Satan's thrall:  
Nor home nor life he counted dear,  
Midst wants and perils owned no fear,  
He felt that, "Christ is all."  
Christ is all, all in all;  
He felt that "Christ is all."

I dreamed that hoary time had fled,  
And earth and sea gave up their dead,  
A fire dissolved this ball;  
I saw the church's ransomed throng,  
I heard the burden of their song,  
'Twas "Christ is all in all."  
Christ is all, all in all;  
'Twas "Christ is all in all."

Then come to Christ, O come today,  
The Father, Son, and Spirit say;  
The Bride repeats the call;  
For He will cleanse your guilty stains,  
His love will soothe your weary pains,  
For "Christ is all in all."  
Christ is all, all in all;  
For "Christ is all in all."

## A CHOSEN VESSEL

The Master was searching for a vessel to use;  
Before Him were many; which one would He choose?

"Take me," cried the gold one, "I'm shiny and bright.  
I'm of great value, and I do things just right.  
My beauty and luster will outshine the rest,  
And for someone like You, Master, gold would be best."

The Master passed on with no work at all  
And looked at a silver urn, narrow and tall;  
"I'll serve You, dear Master, I'll pour out Your wine,  
I'll be on Your table whenever You dine!  
My lines are so graceful, my carvings so true,  
And silver will always compliment You."

Unheeding, the Master passed on to the brass,  
Wide-mouthed and shallow, and polished like glass.  
"Here! Here!" cried the vessel, "I know I will do,  
Place me on Your table for all men to view."

"Look at me," cried the goblet of crystal so clear,  
"My transparency show my contents so clear.  
Though fragile am I, I will serve You with pride,  
And I'm sure I'll be happy in Your house to abide."

The Master came next to a vessel of wood,  
Polished and carved, it solidly stood.  
"You can use me, dear Master," the wooden bowl said,  
"But I'd rather you use me for fruit, not for bread."

The Master looked down and saw a vessel of clay,  
Empty and broken it helplessly lay.

No hope had the vessel, that the Master might choose  
To cleanse and make whole, to fill and to use.

"Ah! This is the vessel I've been hoping to find.  
I'll mend it and use it and make it all Mine.  
I need not the vessel with pride of its self,  
Not one that is narrow to sit on the shelf;  
Not one that is big-mouthed and shallow and loud,  
Not one that displays his contents so proud;  
Not one that thinks he can do all things just right,  
But this plain, earthly vessel, filled with power and might."

Then gently He lifted the vessel of clay,  
Mended and cleansed it, and filled it that day.  
Spoke to it kindly, "There's work you must do:  
Just pour out and serve others, as I pour into you."

Author unknown  
Selected by Sharon Miller

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## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

### The Great Chain

Men said that the old smith was foolishly careful as he wrought on the great chain he was making in his dingy shop in the heart of a large city. But he heeded not their words and only wrought with greater painstaking. Link after link he fashioned, and welded, and finished, and at last the great chain was completed.

Years passed. One night there was a terrible storm, and a ship was in sore peril of being dashed upon the rocks. Anchor after anchor was dropped, but none of them held. At last the mighty sheet anchor was cast into the sea, and the old chain



unwound and ran out until it grew taut. All watched to see if it would bear the strain. It sank in the wild storm as the vessel surged upon it. It was a moment of intense anxiety. The ship with its cargo of a thousand lives depended upon this one chain. What now if the old smith had wrought carelessly even one link of his chain? But he had put skill and thoroughness into every part of it, and it stood the test, holding the ship in safety until the storm was over.

*Foundation Stones of Success, 1917*

Selected from *The Christian School Builder*

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

Kind Kimberly

"Kimberly, come play with us, please," begged Monroe, tugging on his big sister's arm. "We need more people than just Jake, Mason, and me. Come, pretty-please with honey on top," he pled.

Kimberly looked longingly after the three cousins her age who were going out to the playhouse. She hated to miss a minute with them, but Monroe's begging made her kind heart want to help these four-year-old boys have a good time, too. She went with Monroe to the fenced yard and began to push Jake, Mason, and Monroe on the swings. They laughed happily, so Kimberly kept pushing each one in turn.

When they tired of swinging, she helped them play Ring-Around-the-Rosie, but she kept looking toward the playhouse, wishing the other girls would come play with her and the boys.

And then, the playhouse door burst open and three seven-year-old girls came running toward Kimberly. "We'll play with you and the boys," they yelled. "It's no fun in the playhouse without you."

"Oh, good!" Kimberly said. "Now we can all have fun and be together."

"Yes! Yes! Yes!" the little boys shouted. "What fun to have the girls play with us!"

When it was time to wash their hands before eating the good supper their mothers had ready, Aunt Miriam laid her hand on Kimberly's shoulder, leaned down, and quietly whispered, "I saw you playing with the little boys, Kimberly, and I know you would have rather been in the playhouse with the girls. Thank you for being so kind. I know you'll go to bed happy tonight."

Kimberly was happy when she went to bed. She was thinking how kind Aunt Miriam was. Then she thought how kind the other girls were to come and play with her and the boys.

God's Word tells us, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32) Sometimes, to be kind means giving up something we want very much to do. But God knows it will make us happy every time we do it.

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

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## BREATH OF GOD

O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,  
Revive Thy Church with life and power;  
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,  
And fit Thy Church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
Till humbly we confess our need;  
Then in Thy tenderness remake us;  
Revive, restore, for this we plead.

O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,  
Renewing thought and will and heart;  
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
Revive Thy Church in every part.

O Heart of Christ, once broken for us,  
'Tis there we find our strength and rest;  
Our broken, contrite hearts now solace,  
And let Thy waiting Church be blest.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating  
While harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting;  
Equip Thy Church to spread the light.

Bessie P. Head in *Victorious Christian Service*

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## THE PLANTING OF THE LORD

Resting in the shade, I noticed the variety of plants that make up my pasture. Possible twenty-five different grasses and weeds were competing for space, moisture, and nutrients. They reminded me of people. Here were the thorny blackberry shoots sneaking in wherever there was enough moisture. Over there were a couple of proud mulleins with large fuzzy leaves. The aromatic fennel was trying to take over and was fairly successful as the cows will not touch it. Fox tails, edible when young, had lost their virtue and could only pretend to look something like good grain. Thistles, too, made a show with their wild beauty.

But in between the obnoxious weeds and thorns grew the better, more useful plants, the grasses and clovers. They were there but not flourishing because they had been cropped down by the hungry cattle. They were like Paul, spending and being spent for the good of others.

God's people are also there, quietly serving among the people of the world. The big difference from the plant kingdom is, of course, the choice that people have and plants have not. Jesus drew good lessons from His creation: the wheat and the tares, the sowing and reaping, the trees, leaves, branches, fruit and seeds.

We would like to focus on those good and useful plants--the planting of the Lord. Why are they what they are? They don't usually win in competition for worldly things and favors. They aren't basically "better" than others; they are declared sinners like all the rest. But the difference: they have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb Christ Jesus. This redemption is available to the "thorny blackberry," the "proud



mullein," and the "repulsive fennel." People are the objects of God's love, and He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

After the blood of Jesus was given on Calvary's cross for the salvation of men, God provided also for the preserving and the persevering of His saints. On the ancient feast of Pentecost, God sent His Holy Spirit to guide His people. This Holy Spirit is responsible for the difference of those who are God's planting. The sweet juices and nutritious qualities of the grasses and clovers are not by accident and not given at random. God has a purpose in placing useful followers of Christ and enabling them to serve in His Kingdom. How does this happen? God's Spirit is powerful. He can live in people who are yielded to Him--committed to Jesus Christ. The weakness of these followers becomes strength that God can use. They qualify for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the resulting fruit.

One of the most vivid examples of the power and operation of the Spirit is the apostles of Jesus Christ. Before Pentecost they were competing, questioning, controlling, and doubting. Typical of humanity, they wanted the highest honor, the place closest to Jesus in His glory. They questioned Jesus' judgment when He would receive the children or bless the Gentile seekers. They doubted when He plainly told them He would soon suffer, die, and be raised from the dead in Jerusalem. When Jesus was arrested *they all ran*.

But after they were filled with the Spirit, they became bold, fearless, and willing followers. They obediently went forth into the world with the Gospel of salvation.

Oh, but those were chosen men, apostles of Jesus. We are weak ordinary plants--shaded and crowded out by aggressive opponents. No, the Holy Spirit is just as able today. He still points us to Jesus and enables us to follow Him and be like Him. He still gives power to boldly, fearlessly testify to a needy world, hostile though they may be. He still presents evidence of

God's goodness and urges us to act on this evidence as we heard recently in a sermon.

The fruit of God's Holy Spirit is vitally needed in the world today. Sure, we are ordinary people in the pasture of God's world. Sure, there are those more showy and those with sharp thorns competing for space. But God proposes by His grace to produce in ordinary people the love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance which are fruits in great demand on the market in our time. Let us be, by the Spirit of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus, useful, nutritious plants, willing to spend and be spent for the glory of God and the benefit of His people. --L.C.

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### WITNESSES OF THE RISEN LORD

The forty days that Jesus was with His chosen apostles and disciples after His resurrection was probably one of the most important periods of His earthly ministry. Acts 1:3-8 says that during this time He through the Holy Ghost gave commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen; showing Himself alive by many infallible proofs and speaking to them of things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

The apostle Peter refers to this in Acts 10:40-43, where he says, "Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead." Paul also says in Acts 13:30-31, "But God raised him from the dead: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people." And in I Cor. 15:4-6, "And that he was buried, and that he rose again the

third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present (about thirty years after His resurrection), but some are fallen asleep."

And so in Acts 1:21-22 the apostle Peter says, "Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, *Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us*, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection."

These Scriptures show how thoroughly trained and qualified the apostles were to carry out the great commission which Jesus gave to them. (Matt. 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8)

It has been asserted by some that Peter with the rest of the eleven apostles acted hastily and without divine authority in appointing Matthias to fill the vacancy left by Judas. But in view of the fact that Jesus was with them those forty days, speaking of things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and through the Holy Ghost gave them commandments, it is far more consistent and reasonable to believe that He instructed them to do the very thing which they did. And so when the day of Pentecost was come, the apostleship was complete, and the full number of twelve were present and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

In view of the fact that the apostles subsequently wrote the New Testament, it is highly probable that they were also instructed by Jesus during those forty days to do so. Therefore we read in Eph. 2:20, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

Thus we see that the apostles' office was permanent. They have no successors. They completed the work which was given



them to do. They went and brought forth fruit, and their fruit remains. (John 15)

Before Jesus left them to ascend again to heaven, He prayed to the Father in their behalf, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. . . Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."

The words of the apostles are with the church permanently in the New Testament Scriptures. It is the permanent testimony of those who were witnesses of all that Jesus did and taught: of His baptism, His miracles, His ministry, His death, resurrection and ascension again to the Father.

There are churches which presume to elect men as successors to the apostolic office with authority equal to theirs, and the Church of Rome even claims to have a Vicar of Jesus Christ. But if this were true, the New Testament would ever be subject to revision and amendment, and consequently there would be no foundation upon which our faith could rest.

"To whom he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." What wonderful things they had seen and heard! No wonder they could speak with power. No wonder they had no fear of men of death. What if men should put them to death? Jesus had been dead and was alive and ascended into heaven; and they had seen Him go. And then they were baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost. But before His ascension, He had been with them forty days after His resurrection and speaking to them of things pertaining to the kingdom--not of this world, but of God. He had said to them, "Blessed be ye poor for yours is the kingdom of heaven," and, "To you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven," and, "He that liveth and believeth in me shall never die."



What did He say to them about the kingdom during those forty days? The apostles wrote many things about the kingdom, but there may have been things revealed that were never written. The apostle John says, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 21:30-31) No doubt He told them more about the Church than what He had previously said in Matt. 16:18-19.

When Jesus appeared in glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, there appeared with Him Moses and Elias, speaking with Him of His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem. But we have no record of what they said. However, this shows conclusively that Moses and Elias had an interest in His atonement.

What the apostles wrote was with assurance and power, because they had been eyewitnesses of His Majesty and all that He did; of His death, His resurrection, and glory and ascension. As said before, it is highly probable that Jesus instructed them to write what they did and to gather together the writings which were to compose the New Testament as a guide to future generations.

So may we thank God for the New Testament Scriptures (as well as the Old) written by inspired men who were chosen of the Lord for their work, who were with Him forty days after His resurrection and received commandment from Him through the Holy Ghost to promulgate His gospel to the ends of the earth.

--Daniel F. Wolf

Reprinted from the May, 1958, *Pilgrim*

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As parents, we hurt or heal more with our words than with anything else. Selected by a reader.

## THE BAPTIZING

*The following account is of the baptism of my father, Joseph I. Cover, written by his brother, Uncle James. The setting is Michigan and the date 1907. It is from a longer writing called Michigan Memories. --L.C.*

We were taught in our home never to speak lightly of sacred things. The seriousness of baptism was impressed on us early in life. Baptisms were high spots in church life: a time for uniting of hearts and reaffirmation of faith. All who could, went, of course. Usually it took place in some pasture in a stream or lake. This time, the Lord, being merciful, had shown our brother Joseph, the oldest of seven children, his need of a Saviour, and this was the day of his baptism.

He had wept as he confessed his need in the "family worship" circle. As I (his junior by eight years) had always idolized him as my "big brother," I could not understand why he thought that he was so bad. I had always thought otherwise.

A small boy's admiration of big brother always watched and was ready for encouragement. When he was chosen to stack straw at the end of the old time thresher, the small boy was no doubt the more proud of the two. When the straw carrier broke and big brother called them to stop, and one of the men said, "Bless the boy," it seemed wonderful to have such an important brother.

Then there were cold nights when we laid "spoon-fashion" in bed to keep warm. Here I was drilled in the alphabet and later in the multiplication tables. Our papa liked to see us together and planned accordingly. Big brother cut the wood, I carried it in; he led the animals to water while I pumped; I drove for him while he cultivated. He was always a ready doctor for all my small ills.

Sitting in the family circle while he wept, we children all felt "shook up" inside. I'm sure we all felt the same. If he had sinned, how about us? However, we were all praying children (we prayed at bedtime, kneeling at our beds, each taking turns according to age, repeating the time-honored prayer of childhood, "Now I lay me down to sleep. . ."), and did not question matters we felt were the concern of our parents. A sweet sacredness settled upon our home.

Our church group was admittedly strict. We knew something of the past struggles to get away from infant baptism. The brethren would ask the applicant for baptism, "Is this your choice?" The church rules were given and accepted. Individual and group responsibilities were taken on as a matter of course.

We children instinctively grew in his experience. We knew his sincerity. He was starting his manhood in open acceptance of the Christian faith, with the Bible as the inspired Word of God; knowing too he was setting an example for the rest of us.

There is nothing quite like Christian baptism outdoors in a flowing stream. We who have had this experience should be truly thankful. Of course, all who have taken this step of faith in following their Lord should treasure those precious moments associated with their first love and obedience to Christ.

Someone had to go ahead to open and close the gate, where we left the road to follow some old half-forgotten trail through the bushes. Clouds of mosquitos awaited in the shadows, and one tried to tie his horse in the sunlight. Turtles and frogs blissfully sunning on the river bank and fallen logs promptly dived into the depths below. Noisy birds quieted to watch from some aerial perch. Grazing cows kept a respectful distance, the bells on their necks telling their whereabouts; a distant dog's bark showed he knew something unusual was happening. Small boys looked for flat stones to skip on the water, but were quickly restrained.

There was singing, perhaps the old favorite:  
In all my Lord's appointed ways  
My journey I'll pursue.  
Hinder me not, ye much loved saints,  
For I must go with you.

Portions of Matthew 18 were read and commented upon, and then all knelt in prayer "down by the riverside." The baptizer first waded in to find a suitable place, pushing in a stick to mark the place. The applicant was then immersed according to Bible formula.

There were tears of joy and fond embraces on the shore of the river. Time seemed to stand still as eternity's values were "written with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever." The die was cast and there was no turning back. Happy hearts rejoiced with the angels in heaven.

There is joy among the angels,  
And their harps with gladness ring  
When a sinner comes, repenting,  
Bending low before the King.

Tiny water skaters, their thread-like knees akimbo, came back to glide over the sacred spot. Wild things resumed their daily activities. Soon the last buggy left, and there was nothing to show we had been there but our tracks on the shore.

In much appreciation, James Cover

---

All the water in the world,  
However hard it tried,  
Could never sink a single ship  
Unless it got inside.

All the evil in the world,  
The wickedness and sin,  
Can never sink your soul to doom  
Unless you let it in. --Selected



## HONOR THY FATHER

*Time is filled with swift transition,  
Naught of earth unmoved can stand. . .  
Hold to God's unchanging hand.*

The special relationship between a father and daughter evolves and revolves as the clock of life ticks out the times and seasons. The unfolding of the swift transition is as much an adjustment for the father as it is for his daughter.

A baby's first cries, an infant's first attempts to smile, to reach out, are exciting moments which a new father shares with his wife. In the joy of the moment, he scarcely realizes the responsibilities that are entwined in the tiny arms reaching out to him. Time is beating, and soon the infant is an inquisitive toddler.

"Daddy, will you push me on the swing?"

"Daddy, will you take me sledding?"

"Daddy, will you read me a Bible story?"

To these and the countless requests of childhood, Daddy answers cheerfully, "Yes, my child. I will help you."

School days begin. A little girl's world has revolved around Father and Mother, but now it is enlarged to include other friends. There are now other adults to whom she will give the same respect and devotion that was taught (or neglected) at home. She depends on her father for advice, answers, and assistance.

"Dad, will you drive us on our field trip?"

"Dad, may our class visit our farm?"

"Dad, do you know how to do this math?"

Through adolescent years, Dad patiently and kindly helps to smooth the way. In busy times, father and daughter have scarcely been aware of the change in their relationship. Watch

carefully, Father. Speak thoughtfully. Allow room for the wings to unfold. As you watch the early steps to maturity, some glad moment you will hear: "Mom and Dad, I'm sorry that I haven't always wanted to listen to you. Can you forgive me? Will you pray with me?"

Humbly Father takes the hand that has trusted in his own and teaches his daughter to trust in the heavenly Father's guiding hand.

"Dad, I'll soon be sixteen. Will you take me to get my permit?"

"Dad, I want to invite some friends over."

"Dad, may I have the car, please?"

In the teenage years, Dad fills the gas tank, gives words of caution, and watches with an anxious care as his daughter's circle of interest and work continues to grow.

"Dad, I think this is the one whom the Lord has for me, but it's kind of scary. You and Mom like him, don't you?"

Father's heart is both happy and sad as he realizes the importance of his approval. Graciously he encourages his daughter to give her love and devotion to another.

"Dad and Mom, may we leave the children here for a few hours?"

"Dad, we need your advice. This looks like a big step."

The parent-child relationship which was bonded through love and caring is now between adults. But alas, time is relentless. Gradually (or perhaps suddenly) the roles are being reversed.

"Mom, isn't Dad well? Do you need help? We're praying for you."

"Dad, here is your medicine. Take a drink with it. Do you want the children to sing? We love you, you know."

The hands of the clock have nearly completed the circle. As twilight descends, the daughter and her family are giving Father

and Grandpa the care, love, patience, understanding, and prayers which he so lovingly gave in the years now gone.

By Mary Ann (Baker) Martin

In *Letters from Home* Used by permission

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### THE MEASURE OF A MAN

How high are you? Where is your thinking done?  
Close to the earth or upward toward the sun?  
Do petty things absorb your every thought?  
The game, the latest crime, what's sold or bought?  
Do noble deeds and lives inspire your zeal?  
Or are you more concerned about a meal?  
The answer marks your measure as a man.

How broad are you? Where does your good will end?  
Does race or creed determine who's your friend?  
To snapshot judgment do you cling with pride?  
Or can you listen to the other side?  
Quick to condemn? Do you reach for the rod  
Or do you leave the chastening to God?  
How loyal is your heart to all mankind?  
The answer marks the broadness of a mind.

How deep are you? Where does your honor start?  
Is it foundationed in your inward heart?  
Is virtue but a mere conventional thing  
To be forgot when taking a wild fling?  
Have you the courage to your course abide  
And stand for right though on the losing side?  
Who walks with Christ throughout life's little span  
Will always meet God's measure of a man.

Selected--Author unknown

## DISCIPLINE

When God wants to drill a man,  
And thrill a man,  
And skill a man,  
When God wants to mold a man  
To play the noblest part;  
When He yearns with all His heart  
To create so great and bold a man  
That all the world shall be amazed  
Watch His methods, watch His ways!  
How He ruthlessly perfects  
Whom He royally elects!  
How He hammers him and hurts him,  
And with mighty blows converts him  
Into trial shapes of clay which  
Only God understands;  
While his tortured heart is crying  
And he lifts beseeching hands!  
How He bends but never breaks  
When his good He undertakes;  
How He uses whom He chooses,  
And with every purpose fuses him;  
By every act induces him  
To try His splendor out--  
God knows what He's about.

From *The Disciplines of Life* by V. Raymond Edman

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE: Generous Jenny

"The earthquake left one million people homeless," Mother told the family at the supper table. "In El Salvador, many people live in small adobe (mud-brick) homes. The earthquake



shook those houses hard enough to crumble their walls and make the roofs cave in. At other places, houses were buried by rocks and dirt falling down the mountainsides. If any of those people escaped, it was only with the clothes they were wearing.. Everything else is lost.

"Now those million people have no shelter from the weather. Some have no bed or mattress, or even a blanket, to sleep on. Of course they don't have food or money to buy food. Just think, children, if you had no comb, soap, toothbrush or toothpaste, how would you feel?"

"I'd like that!" John said. "Then I wouldn't have to brush my teeth every morning."

"I'm afraid you'd begin to wish you could brush your teeth after awhile," Mother answered. "Of course, you wouldn't get anything to eat very often, so maybe you wouldn't need to brush your teeth. Would you like that?"

"Mother, this fried chicken supper is so good, but I'll just eat one piece of chicken and half of my potatoes. Then we can send the rest of my chicken and potatoes to a hungry child in El Salvador. Okay?" Jenny offered.

Mother smiled at Jenny and said, "That's very generous of you, Jenny, but we can't send food that's ready to eat that far. It would be spoiled till it got there."

"But how can we help them get food to eat?" Jenny asked. "I want to help them."

"Well, let me think a bit," Mother said. "Daddy do you have any ideas?"

"Usually, to help poor people in other countries, we have to give money to some organization that will use the money to buy food and get it to the people," Daddy told them. "So if you children want to help these Salvadoran people by giving some of your money, Mother and I will find where we can send it."

"Oh, I remember now," Mother said. "We did get a notice from a Christian organization today in the mail. They are

asking for money to help the earthquake victims in El Salvador."

"Let me send them my money, Mother. Please, may I?" Jenny begged. "I have nine dollars and twenty-five cents. That'll buy lots of fried chicken and mashed potatoes, won't it? It's all I have, or I'd give lots more."

"You may send your money, Jenny," Mother told her. "Every dollar helps to feed the hungry, and God loves a cheerful giver, no matter how much they can give. How about you, John?"

"I'll give two dollars," said John. "I only have five dollars, and I might want some ice cream when we go to town this summer."

"Mother and I will send money along with yours, children, and that way our family can help feed several people," Daddy said. "We need to be thankful that God has blessed us so we can help others."

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

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## SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

As pilgrims and strangers we journey through life,  
Thro' sunshine and shadow, thro' calm and thro' strife,  
Each day we are scattering seed as we go,  
Someday 'twill be harvest--"we reap what we sow."

Though weary and worn and alone in your way,  
And stormclouds are gath'ring, and dark is your day;  
Weep not, toiling one, neither faint as you go;  
The harvest is nearing--"we reap what we sow."

Though life may appear as a cold, barren waste,  
And comes no return of the bread you have cast,  
Continue to do loving deeds as you go;  
The harvest is nearing--"we reap what we sow."

We'll reap what we sow when the harvest is come;  
Someday we shall garner the deeds we have done.  
Then heed not the storm nor the cold winds that blow;  
Toil on till the harvest--"we reap what we sow."

Charles E. Orr

#583 in *The Christian Hymnal*

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## REST OR PRIDE

The wind was in our faces as we approached the edge of a steep bank descending one hundred feet down to the foamy water of the Pacific. We had to think of the possibility of falling--of walking too near the edge, losing balance, and plunging to the rocks and water below. Peering down we saw some vegetation and delicate flowers blooming, hanging valiantly to the sparse soil between the rocks. They were seldom seen. No one could enjoy their fragrance and few could appreciate the beauty that matched the finest in flower shops. They just bloomed where God had placed them.

I had to think: "Could I be content with a similar spot to serve?" We are all born into this world without a choice in the matters of where, how, when, in what condition. But we are given the choice of how we will respond to the environment God has provided for us. It is a matter of pride versus humility, of contentment or restlessness. How we like to be recognized, and to have our actions appreciated!

We see Jesus as the answer to all of our problems including pride, restlessness, or discontent. Until we rest in Him, we wander in a world that has no final meaning.

In reading the ten commandments, my attention was drawn to the fourth that has been a subject of controversy to many. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." Throughout the ages and experiences of Israel, they have carefully kept this commandment. To outwardly observe the letter regarding the sabbath does not require a converted heart. But the writer of Hebrews tells us we are to labor to enter into another rest. The rest in Jesus Christ when we cease from our own works is what the Old Testament sabbath symbolized. When we are born



again and have the divine nature, we become what God has in mind for His people: rest in Him. The schoolmaster has served his purpose; we are no longer children of the bondwoman; that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away. (Heb. 8:13) We are under the new covenant. The Lord's Day when Jesus rose from the dead is now our day of worship.

I briefly outline our beliefs about the sabbath simply to point out the blessed rest in Jesus Christ. He invites, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." This then is the relief--the only relief--from our discontent and restlessness. When we rest in Him, we can serve willingly wherever He places us. We are free from our own works; pride loses its strangle hold on our affections. We can humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and let Him lift us up.

Pride in the heart brought more condemnation from the Lord Jesus than any other sin. It was the sin of the Pharisees and scribes. Someone has remarked that "Ecclesiastical pride is the worst kind." I believe this is true because it is so contradictory. The faith of Jesus Christ shows us what we are--how needy of the Saviour. When our "religion" makes us proud, it is not the teaching of Jesus.

The Bible says, "Pride goeth before a fall. . ." and ". . . be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." Our clothing is what people see when they look at us. If we are clothed with humility, it shows. Even the outward clothing recommended to members of the Brethren church is not showy. It does not include a flashy necktie or bright colored, attention-getting dresses. When we wear clothing that says "look at me," we are not clothed with humility. On the other hand, we can wear very plain clothes and have a very proud appearance. From this would we conclude that if our heart is right, it doesn't matter what we wear? No, to have a humble heart and wear proud clothing would be a contradiction. The Saviour said, "Either make the

tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." (Mat. 12:33,34) This passage is particularly about our words, but we show what is in our hearts by what we do as well as what we say. Jesus said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46)

In reading the account of David and Goliath, we see some interesting differences compare to our experience. After David killed Goliath and cut off his head, he carried that head and appeared before King Saul with it in his hand. We think, "How gruesome! Was he just drawing attention and showing pride in his victory?" No, David gave the glory to God. In absolute confidence in God, he told Saul, "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." He also declared to Goliath, "This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand. . . that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." It was Goliath that was proud and boastful, and "defied the armies of the living God." In spite of David's gory show of victory, I believe God wants us and all ages to know how dangerous it is to exalt ourselves against God and be lifted up with pride. Truly, "Pride goeth before a fall."

How good it is to rest in Jesus Christ and just bloom where we are planted! What joy to let God decide how and where we will serve and who will notice! How restful to seek God's will in every decision--even in the *small* choices as when we go to buy clothes. May our pride be crushed and God's glory shine through in our lives. --L.C.

#### WHERE SHALL I WORK?

"Father, where shall I work today?"

And my love flowed warm and free;

Then He pointed out a humble spot,  
And said, "Tend that for me."

I answered quickly, "Oh no, not that.  
Why no one would ever see,  
No matter how well my work was done;  
Not that little place for me."

And the word He spoke, it was not stern,  
He answered me tenderly,  
"Ah, little one, search that heart of thine,  
Art thou working for them, or Me?  
Nazareth was a little place,  
And so was Galilee."

Anonymous

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### TRUE LOVE--FALSE LOVE

God made man in His very likeness and image, with a pure and holy nature. The fruit of this creation would have included love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc. Our fore parents sinned which brought death. Mankind lost that close communion and fellowship with his Maker. Sin puts a barrier between God and man. We do not read very far into Genesis until we see corruption on every hand. It grieved God that He even made man. Cain murdered his brother Abel. Sin, violence, and immoral conduct filled the earth. As we read through the Bible, we see God calling men to repentance and to return unto Him. The few that were faithful had close fellowship and communion with their Maker, and they were persecuted for their faith. God's Holy Spirit guided them.

Dear reader, we are now at the end of the age with the same problems plaguing mankind. Satan is still doing his deceitful work. Either we are deceived by Satan's lies, or we

are born again by God's Holy Spirit and love. Before we can understand true love, we must be born again. And before we can be born again, we must see our own sinfulness and carnal nature. We must keep first things first, and understand that unless God's Holy Spirit is guiding us, we fail.

To love God with all our heart, mind, strength, and soul is the first and greatest of all commandments. Second is to love our neighbor as ourselves. Until these commandments are obeyed and kept in their proper order, we cannot expect close communion and fellowship with our Maker.

There are hundreds of churches that make covenants among themselves. But if they are not keeping first things first, covenanting with God in Christ Jesus to live faithful unto death; if they are not fearing God, and worshiping in spirit and in truth, loving and obeying their Master, it will not stand the test of time. In all things Christ must have the preeminence. "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." If we say we know Him, and walk in darkness (I John 1:6), do not keep His word (I John 2:4), and have not His love (I John 2:9), the Word says we lie and do not the truth.

We must see sin as God sees it (exceeding sinful) and understand that all unrighteousness is sin! This will motivate us in the path of holiness, purity of heart, and a hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Yes, we all come short and fail many times, but "He that shall endure unto the end (keeps pressing on that upward way), the same shall be saved."

#### TRUE LOVE

True love cares! True love has a burden for those out of the way! True love does not get bitter, angry, envious, resentful, unmerciful, or judgmental. Jesus looked over Jerusalem and wept. They were His own people. He said,



"How often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" (Luke 13:34) Yes, Jesus cares; He would protect; He would nourish. The carnal man seeks to please men ahead of God. True love seeks the honour that comes from God alone. Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." How did Jesus love us? He loved us so much that while we were yet sinners, He died for us. Yes, beloved, true love has a burden that all men would be saved, and looks for every opportunity to help some poor soul. Jesus was separate from sinners. He did not live in sin or condone it. Yet, He had a deep compassion for sinners. He was accused of being a friend to sinners. Because He had true love, a deep spiritual love, and saw the value of a soul, He made a great sacrifice for the lost, yes, for us, beloved.

True love has power. Suspicion and mistrust are detrimental to helping someone. To be harsh and cold does not have a drawing effect upon anyone. We need to learn more about mercy and compassion, that divine love that can only be understood when one is born from above. Jesus came to seek and to save those that were lost. Paul said, "I am a debtor to all men." He would have done almost anything to help his brethren, even in giving up his own life. One soul is worth more than the whole world. Yet it seems we labor so hard for the perishing things. Life is like a sea: men are drowning and perishing in their sins. O that God would put a burden on our souls for the lost. Jesus said, "Go into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in that my house may be filled." (Luke 14:23)

The Bible teaches: "Honour all men!" Honour means to put value upon. The Word teaches that if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring in goodly apparel and you say, "Sit thou here in a good place," but a poor man in vile raiment

comes in, and you say, "Sit thou here under my footstool," are you not partial and become judges of evil thoughts? "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" God puts value upon every soul. He suffered for the sins of all. If we have His Spirit, we also will have the same concerns.

We read in I Tim. 2 that prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks should be made for all men, for kings and those in authority. And then in verse 4, it says that God will have all men to be saved. Here is clear teaching for a burden for the lost. If we were praying for our enemies, and doing good to those who despitefully use us; if we were interceding and pleading to God for precious souls, would it not help us in the way of true love? Look at the mess this sin sick world is in. Because of the sin nature, men inflict suffering and pain upon each other. The church is called with a holy calling, called to be saints (holy, blameless), and we are taught to do unto others as we would that they do to us. Yes, love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

#### THE STORY OF MR. PEGELOW

We will relate a portion of a true story. Mr. Pegelow was a man who grew up in a financially well-to-do home, yet he did not feel loved or accepted, and ended up being the town drunk. He had no vision or purpose for life. In this story was another young man who through seeking God's will through prayer and Bible reading had a vision. In his vision he was shown heaven and hell. In his vision of hell he saw those about to fall over into the flames of hell fire. Suddenly he saw one that he recognized. It was Mr. Pegelow, the town drunk, and he was very close to the edge. In the vision the Lord spoke to this young man and said, "Help him, for he is about to perish." After seeing the glory of heaven and the horrors of hell, with souls screaming in agony, he was touched to the heart.

One Sunday evening on his way to church, this young man saw Mr. Pegelow sitting in the junk yard where he worked, with filthy clothes and in a drunken state. His heart was touched with deep compassion and love for Mr. Pegelow. So he went in and got Mr. Pegelow's arm around his neck and helped him to walk on to church. As he entered the place of worship, he got several negative looks as if to say, "Why are you bringing that bum in here. Well, before the service ended, Mr. Pegelow sobered up and was deeply touched that someone cared enough about him to try to help him. The young man and his family took Mr. Pegelow home where he cleaned up and ate. Mr. Pegelow was so touched that he repented of his wayward life and turned to following after the Lord. Everyone noticed that he was a changed man. In a few days after his conversion he was found dead. His pilgrimage here was over. Because of someone seeking after God, a poor soul was helped, and is now in the hands of a merciful and just God. Mr. Pegelow had sunken into a pitiful state, wallowing in the mire with no vision. He was under the destructive deception of Satan, the one who is a liar, murderer, and deceiver, the one who holds out the deceptive fruit of self-pity, the self life, and blinds the eyes to the beauty of God's ways when we totally yield up our lives to our Creator and Saviour. The Bible says, "In me, that is in my flesh dwelleth no good thing." If a man thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. Man in his best state is altogether vanity without God. Mankind needs help, and through God's help, if man will receive that gift, there is power to save us from the snares of sin, self, and Satan. Yes, we were in the same dilemma as Mr. Pegelow: lost and without hope. "But love like Thine could find a way to rescue and adorn." If the great sacrifice of Jesus does not touch our hearts, then what could? (to be continued)

Kenneth Garber,  
Athens, Wisconsin



## CONDEMNATION OR CONSEQUENCES?

Romans 8:1 tells us that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. This is probably one of the most comforting verses to those of us who have claimed His precious name, reassuring us that no matter what we have done in the past, we are forgiven, with no need to feel the cringing shame that is the natural result of any sin. What a freedom from such a bondage! Praise God!

There is another word whose meaning often seems to be confused with that of condemnation. The word is consequence. The Scripture is very clear that there is no condemnation to the child of God for any past sin, but it does *not* say that the forgiven child of God is free of *consequences*. I know that in my life I have had difficulties and trials that were many times directly related to sins that I knew had been confessed and forgiven. Many times I was tempted to, and actually did, interpret these trials as condemnation from God or other people for my previous misdeeds. God's word, however, states that there is *no condemnation* because I was *in Christ Jesus*. I was experiencing *consequences*--natural, inevitable events put into play by the now forgiven sin in my past. I had the complete forgiveness of God, but I still had to deal with the consequences of my past actions. Accountability--this is a lesson that has been hard-learned by myself, and surely I am still learning it.

I gave my heart to the Lord at an early age, and this was as it should have been. Later on, I chose to leave the Lord and went my own way for a number of years. During that time, I did many things that I knew were wrong, deliberately flaunting my will over God's. Only through His great mercy and love and the prayers of those who loved me, did I slowly make my way back to Jesus and His lifestyle. I now had peace, but what a shambles my life was!



I felt no condemnation for any of my sins, no matter how horrible they had been, but I did have lasting consequences to deal with, some of which I will deal with for the rest of my life. Formerly close relationships were severed or damaged by the pain my actions had caused. My spiritual life was stunted and twisted. Life was not smooth and nice. It was hard, harder than I had ever imagined life could be. Satan, who had been given free reign for years, did not want to let go, and for awhile I was under such attack, that I would have never been able to hold on were it not for God giving me the strength to hold on, sometimes hour by hour. Physically I became ill, emotionally I was unstable, and none of these things were condemnation, just consequences. It has been seven years since I made my decision to return to the Lord, and just now, in the past few months, with the physical and prayer support of loved ones, good doctors, and above all, the Lord Jesus Christ, I feel that I am approaching physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

The point of this article is not to promote my own experience at all. The point I am hoping to make is that when irritating, hurtful things spring up from the past, we need to be sure that we look at them from the proper perspective. True, some people may hold grudges; some people may gossip; some people may not have our best interests at heart. These things would all be true even *if* we had lived the *perfect* life! There's nothing we can do about anyone else--our job is to learn patience, forgiveness, whatever lesson is placed before us by God, in whatever form He chooses to present it.

No matter what it takes, staying the course is worth it. There really is no other alternative--God is the only one with the power and the wisdom to help us, and besides, no one else could love us more than He does. That is what we all need and want, isn't it --*true* love?

I hope this is an encouragement to all. There are consequences to all of our actions: the actions for God have

wonderful consequences, and the consequences of actions against Him serve only to destroy us and those around us.

Praise Him for His mercy!

Mary E. Martin

Modesto, California

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### BLEST TIE

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

We sometimes sing this song. Are we singing it with all the meaning? Though we may be near or far apart, we can still be joined in heart. How does one describe the feeling of Christian fellowship and the feeling of Christian friends' prayers ascending upward in ones behalf?

What a blessing prayer can be! Not only is it our communion with God, but in times of sickness, trouble, or grief, how comforting it is to feel the prayers of Christian friends ascending to God in our behalf.

The warm feelings of brotherly love and prayers shown in the many calls, letters, and visits and help in my home after surgery seemed to envelop me. It is impossible to thank each one separately, but may God bless each of you.

Might this fellowship with Christian friends be only a little taste of fellowship with God. His love for us was so great that He sacrificed His Son for us.

"Let brotherly love continue." (Hebrews 13:1)

Elma Moss

New Madison, Ohio

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### ADDRESS CHANGE

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## HYMN HISTORY

## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Many of the British hymn writers were children of the clergy or came from middle or upper class backgrounds. Not Edward Mote. His parents kept a pub in London, and his Sundays were spent in the streets. Mote stated that he was so ignorant, he didn't even know there was a God. He was apprenticed to a cabinetmaker who took him church where he heard the gospel.

Mote himself became a successful cabinetmaker and was active in his local church. The chorus of this hymn came to him as he walked to work one morning, and the stanzas followed during the day.

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ the solid rock I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

Information from *The One Year Book of Hymns*, compiled and edited by Robert K. Brown and Mark R. Norton @ 1995. Devotions written by William J. Petersen. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

Jean Martin  
Nappanee, Indiana

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## BIRTH

MARTIN - A daughter, Carla Deann, born to Kevin and Ina Martin of New Paris, Indiana.

FOR YOUTH  
NO SWEETER JOY

There is no joy sweeter than resting in Jesus;  
No comfort more blessed than trusting in Him,  
For His is the strength that no power can conquer,  
And His the true wisdom that nothing can dim!  
In Him is no darkness, and never a shadow;  
His light can pierce even the darkest of night.  
Oh, art thou oppressed? Then turn to the Saviour,  
And trust His blest guidance to make all things bright.

In Him is no fear, and no terror is near Him,  
For in His blest shelter all's peaceful and clear.  
Oh, hast thou cold dread or worry of danger?  
Then in thy need unto Jesus draw near!  
And He'll lighten thy burden and strengthen thy spirit,  
And all once so fearful will brighten at last;  
His love will illumine; His comfort will conquer;  
Thy spirit will be all secure in His grasp.

Like warm, golden sunlight His love all surrounds thee,  
And rests all about thy straight, narrow path;  
As for the terror, it shall not come nigh thee,  
Though many shall fall 'round about in the land...  
For His is the power that nothing can conquer,  
And His the sure wisdom that nothing withstands!  
Nothing shall turn thee aside from His pathway  
As long as thou clingest to His blessed hands!

Susanna Tate



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## Slothful Sally

"Sally," Mom called. "Please come and set the table for lunch."

"Oh, Mom, you always make me work. I have hardly started playing house." Slowly Sally headed down the stairs. While she set the table, her mind wandered to how much fun it would be to be playing house right now. As soon as the table was set, she ran upstairs again.

"Sally, lunch is ready," Mom called a little while later.

Sally scurried down the steps, for she really was hungry. As soon as she finished her lunch, she headed back upstairs to play again. Mom was very disappointed in her daughter. She had hoped Sally would do the dishes so she could finish the wash.

"Sally," Mom called again. "Please come and do the dishes. I need to finish the wash. After the dishes are finished, please help me with the wash.

"Ah, Mom, why can't you do the dishes?" Sally complained. "I just started having fun." None the less, she trudged downstairs. Slowly she washed one dish and then the next. Finally she had all the dishes finished and began to fold the clothes.

"I just don't see why I have to work so hard all the time," Sally fussed again. "I hardly ever get time to play. When I just start having fun, then you call me. It's just not fair."

"Sally, in the Bible we read, 'Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise.' Ants are very industrious. They never complain about having too much work to do. The Bible says it is wrong to be lazy and never work. It says that if a man does not work, he should not eat either. Do you think you can do better, Sally," questioned Mom.

"I'll try, Mom. I'm sorry I haven't worked as hard as I should have, and complained so much. After that, she tried hard to work nicely. Sally also discovered the sooner she finished her work, the happier she felt, and she also discovered she did have as much time as she needed to play.

Charlesta Hilty

New Madison, Ohio

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### PILGRIM POINTERS

We sing in hymn # 480:

"Dark and thorny is the desert

Through which pilgrims make their way."

This is true in one sense. Pilgrims are "those who journey through alien lands." (Webster) The customs we encounter should be strange to us. The world is not a friend to grace.

On the other hand, Jesus tells us to rejoice and leap for joy. Your names are written in heaven. This makes the dark and thorny desert blossom as a rose. --L.C.

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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

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## BRING YOUR VESSELS, NOT A FEW

Are you longing for the fullness of the blessing of the Lord

In your heart and life today?

Claim the promise of your Father; come according to His word

In the blessed, old-time way.

Bring your empty earthen vessels, clean through Jesus' precious blood;

Come, ye needy, one and all;

And in human consecration wait before the throne of God,

Till the Holy Ghost shall fall.

Like the cruse of oil unfailing is His grace forevermore,

And His love unchanging still;

And according to His promise with the Holy Ghost and power,

He will every vessel fill.

He will fill your heart today to overflowing,

As the Lord commandeth you, "Bring your vessels, not a few;"

He will fill your heart today to overflowing

With the Holy Ghost and power.

Mrs. C. H. Morris

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## TRAVELLING THROUGH

Some dreams are vivid enough to seem real. A recent dream I had was about the choices we have when travelling across the continent. This was not surprising since we have just arrived home after such a journey. My dream concerned the attitudes or purposes we may have as we travel. Do we travel to learn more about God's world? Do we travel on a mission to help someone? Do we visit friends and relatives? Is our trip for our own pleasure? Did we simply need to "get away" for awhile? My concern is not whether or not these reasons are valid. Each person is different. But whatever our goals in this life, we all need to set out on a spiritual pilgrimage. Our destination is heaven.

A journey takes preparation--sometimes weeks of it. As we travel we still need to eat, to keep clean, to take clothes for various occasions. Our Christian journey also takes preparation. One song goes:

"I have made my preparation;  
From this world, separation."

But separation from the world is only the negative part of preparation. Our greatest need is our Guide, the Lord Jesus. To set out and become a traveller, to leave the world behind, we must be born again. We are informed that this world can not last, and we need to move to a better country. We study and prepare for the place we are going. We need the new nature that longs for heaven. We travel light--taking the clothes that are right considering climate, customs, and people we wish to impress.

One joyful aspect of travel is those with whom we are travelling. It is usually family or close friends. On our journey



through to the better land, we have a Friend that "sticketh closer than a brother." Jesus promised never to forsake us.

"God holds my hand; To walk with Him is sweet.

I find in Him a life that is complete.

And when His will I do not understand,

I can but pray, 'Do not let go my hand.'"

Communication is vital to a happy tourist. A cell phone provides some with comfort for emergencies. God offers 911 service: "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." (Psalm 50:15) Happy conversation and songs of joy can also be ours as the scenes change daily.

"All the way my Saviour leads me;

What have I to ask beside?

Can I doubt His tender mercy,

Who through life has been my Guide?"

Some travellers are outgoing and interested in the people of the area through which they go. On our earthly travels, we don't usually think of taking those we meet along with us. But we are not shy to tell them of our destination and enquire about theirs. On our journey toward heaven, we do desire to have others become travellers to glory. We tell of the joys that are waiting when our pilgrimage is done. We tell of Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. We glory in the sacrifice He made for us and for all men when He died that we might live.

The provision God makes for travellers is fantastic! On our trip from Indiana to Wisconsin, we were faced with the decision to drive through the traffic of Chicago or go north and take the ferry across Lake Michigan. We chose the ferry, though we had not seen it. When we arrived, there was this huge boat, built originally to carry thirty-four freight cars. Now carrying cars and trucks, there was plenty of room for us and our car. If men can make a craft like this to surmount an obstacle like Lake Michigan, what is God able to provide for our spiritual journey? There is no problem too large for Him. We may be faced with

sickness or sorrow, hard decisions or unjust criticism. It may seem that we cannot go on. Jesus told the man whose son was possessed, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

One of the hazards of travel is the possibility that we may become fascinated with a place and decide to stay, especially if we have no definite destination. Remember Pa in the *Little House on the Prairie* series. He was such an optimist that he tried to settle down a number of places that simply proved to be unsuitable for making a living. Let us keep our eyes on our destination. Another song says:

"This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing through;  
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.  
The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door,  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore."

Our interstate highways have beautiful rest stops along the way. To meet for worship each Lord's Day makes a rest stop on our heavenly journey. This day breaks the pattern of daily work and is not only restful but vital. Hebrews 10:25 says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Some day the journey will be done. Home looks good after an earthly journey. So will our heavenly home be after this life and its labors are over.

"When all my labors and trials are o'er,  
And I am safe on the beautiful shore,  
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore  
Will through the ages be glory for me."

Jesus will be there. Our Heavenly Father will welcome us and say (O wondrous thought!) "Well done, good and faithful servant." Only through Jesus our Lord will this be possible. Let us set out at once! --L.C.

## PERFECTING HOLINESS

To define holiness is to define God. To be able to define God is to know God. Man is capable of becoming the holiness of God, for Scripture calls us to this: "Follow Peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14) "Be ye holy, for I am holy." (I Pet. 1:16)

Peace and holiness are synonymous; if we have one, we will have the other. This is not expressed just by word or thought: "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." (I John 3:18)

Perfecting holiness is the hallmark of the Christian faith. If there is such a thing as a "hall of fame" in God's kingdom on earth, its members are cited throughout the Scriptures in perfecting holiness in the sight of God and man. With the combination of faith and fear, they were able to prove the power of the Holy Spirit in perfecting the holiness of God. (Heb. 11) "And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." (Rev. 12:11)

Earthly kingdoms rise and fall because of man's ignorance of what the problem is. Fallen men in their self-esteem are led to believe that in their own wisdom they are capable of solving humanity's problems. In pursuit of this they are a continual threat to one another. In this fear of one another, they create powerful defence activities, but in spite of man's efforts, in time they are overcome. As sure as earthly kingdoms rise, so they fall. In one account in history (Masada), men felt so secure in their fortifications that when they began to crumble, rather than be in bondage to their foes, they agreed to eliminate themselves to take the pleasure from their enemies. Satan won the battle. The curse that has come on the human race in the fall is



expressed in man's relationship with one another. This was revealed in the first two sons of Adam.

There is a kingdom on earth that will not be overcome. Its fortification is the Spirit of the living God. "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (II Cor. 10:4,5) We see in this text a fortification that has and is preserving faith and proving the gospel message of the Lord Jesus Christ. ". . . For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. . . And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God." (II Cor. 6:16-7:1)

The church at Corinth had many problems that needed to be corrected. Most of them were improper relationships with one another. The apostle made it clear that in this state they were carnal, and that in this state the holiness of God could not be experienced. "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (I Cor. 3:3) "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom. 8:6,7)

The church at Corinth was involved in immorality that was not even named among the Gentiles, and the companion to this was their strife among themselves. Both of these are a testimony of a carnal mind that separates man from the holiness of God.



Paul was personally experiencing the consequence of this strife among them. "We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange--I speak as to my children--open wide your hearts also." (II Cor. 6:11-13 NIV)

We are thankful for our Anabaptist heritage. We believe it has restored the Apostolic faith. Thousands have given their blood for its cause. They believed in their hearts. The call to the holiness of God separated them from this present evil world. At that time the church had become the authority of the state; this in itself was a call for separation. Jesus calls us to this in John 18:36.

We believe the Anabaptist faith has preserved separation of church and state-- in a physical sense, but we have not done so well in strife and division among ourselves. The end result is the same as that of the world. It is the same spirit with a different garb. The apostle Paul interprets it as carnality.

We believe the corporate faith is the proving ground of the holiness of God. It is where Satan is dethroned from his dwelling place (which is in the heart of man) by receiving one another in submission, preferring one another in love, as Christ has received us. In this we find freedom and security that cannot be experienced anywhere else. Any man that would claim otherwise in word or deed is a liar and the truth is not in him. (I John 2:4)

The Lord knows them that are His. We believe also that those who know Him know one another. This penetrates all walls and boundaries that man can make. It binds us in brotherhood, in marriage, and in families that the gates of hell cannot sever. In this security we are blessed.

Kenneth Martin  
Nappanee, Indiana

## TRUE LOVE--FALSE LOVE (continued from last issue)

## TRUE LOVE DISCIPLINES

There is an area of great deception regarding love. What God says and what man thinks are very far apart. The Bible says, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." (Heb. 12:6-8) To be a child of God, we must deny self, falling on the rock (Jesus) in brokenness and submission. We must receive His word which is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It pierces even to dividing asunder of soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. If we have not met these conditions, we are bastards (illegitimate children) and not sons. Jesus said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." "The kingdom of God is within you." The kingdom starts here below. If the King is not dwelling in a man, he is not in the kingdom.

## THE SOFT APPROACH

Jesus is perfect; He never sinned, but He reproved sin. He told His disciples that "The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil." When Jesus is abiding in us, He is still reproving us of sin. When one receives the divine nature, he understands that God is holy and that sin puts a barrier between man and God. That is why repentance is so important, for a holy God cannot abide in an unclean vessel. The Holy Spirit reveals the beauty of holiness and the deceitfulness of sin. Also the Holy Spirit causes the heart to call upon the Lord. Have you called upon

the Lord? They that call upon the Lord shall be saved! We must know our need, for without Jesus, we can do nothing! When He is abiding in us, we will be hungering and thirsting after righteousness, with pure hearts, asking the Lord to take away our sins. When one asks and receives, his joy is full. He realizes that truly there is overcoming power, for the promise is to those who are overcomers. Jesus said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Do you believe this Scripture? If you have received through faith believing, you know of the deep joy. If you have not received, be assured that our Lord wants admission into your heart, for His promises and Word are true.

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever sinneth hath not seen him neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. (I John 3:5-10)

A carnal mind does not want to be rebuked for sin, so he does not want to rebuke another. A spiritual mind desires to be rebuked for sin, for he knows that God and man can see us better than we can see ourselves. A spiritual mind knows the closer he draws to God, the closer God will draw to him.

The Bible teaches, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." Not until we really love each other will this plan work. People and churches usually take the soft approach. They do not want to



deal with sin. When sin is not dealt with, the church will go downhill. When we make a vow, defer not to pay it, for it is better not to vow, than to vow and not pay. Let us wake up to our carnality and do things God's way.

Jesus spoke out very plainly against sin. God told the prophets to cry aloud and spare not. A rebellious child was commanded to be stoned. The prophet told David of his sin and was not soft about it. After telling the story of the little ewe lamb and David became angry, the prophet told David: "Thou art the man." Hell fire is not soft; it is something to fear.

We have observed in our lifetime that home and church discipline both have weakened. The world in many cases believes that the rod of correction is wrong. There is a carnal way of disciplining. There is child abuse and neglect which are not right. The Word teaches (at least for elders): "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear." (I Tim. 5:20)

We must have holy intentions and a pure heart if we would see God--here and now and in the future. God has said that He will dwell in us and will lead and guide us into all truth. We must desire to be corrected. Proverbs 8:8-10 says, "...Rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (to be concluded)

Kenneth Garber  
Athens, Wisconsin

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#### ADDRESS CHANGE

Joel Royer    67525 C.R. 11 Nappanee, IN 46550  
(219) 831-5395

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The best vitamin for making friends is B-1.



## NATURALLY

Because of original sin, human nature is inwardly corrupt. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jer. 17:9) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23) In coming to know myself, these are the characteristics I find come naturally; it takes no effort to be this way:

Naturally, I seek happiness from outside myself; if circumstances do not please me, I am miserable.

Naturally, I cannot love when others do things against me or speak unkindly to me; I tend to hate.

Naturally, I hold a grudge; I cannot forgive a wrong done to me or see beyond the situation; I cannot quietly suffer.

Naturally, I criticize; I cannot see the good in others or their efforts.

Naturally, I judge others with my mind of logic, not a heart of understanding; I become impatient if others don't understand me.

Naturally, I complain; I am not thankful unless things are coming my way.

Naturally, I am proud; I seek others' attention and praise for myself and what I do; I see only the good in myself--I'm blind to my faults.

Naturally, I am intemperate and unbalanced; when I am enthused, I become too optimistic; when it wasn't my idea, I am pessimistic.

But seeing myself, by divine revelation, I repented of my sins and begged for God's forgiveness and grace to do differently. He is that Great Almighty God, who, if it were not for Jesus' intercession, would hold me accountable for all the times I naturally follow my own way. Instead, He took His Son Jesus' blood as atonement, washed my life clean of sin and took away my guilt. Inside, I am a new person. Upon that cleansing,

His Holy Spirit moved in to rule my heart and keep me from my natural ways. Now I am completely settled and at peace with God.

With Jesus in my heart, amazing things happen that are of the divine nature.

Where I would have disliked or hated, I find myself loving.

Where I would have held a grudge, I forgive, remembering my own faults.

Where I would have criticized and judged, I see the good of others with an understanding heart.

When I would have complained, I accept and feel in myself a thankfulness for our many blessings.

Where I would have been proud, I do not want to be honored, desiring to be humble like Jesus. My sinful inclination is ever before me, and I work against it; I can readily admit my wrong.

Where I was intemperate, the Holy Spirit prompts me to be temperate in all things.

All these amazing things happen when Jesus dwells in my heart. If I do not submit myself totally to God, a conflict begins in my heart between God and self. If self is allowed to grow unchecked, I may not notice when the Lord quietly moves out. Then I am at peace with myself. Self fills my whole heart, becoming a monster who rules my life and robs me of that miraculous salvation from my sinful nature.

"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 7:24,25)

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Rom. 8:1)

"My soul be on thy guard; Ten thousand foes arise;  
The hosts of sin are pressing hard To draw thee from the skies."

Mrs. Anita Toews in the *Messenger of Truth*

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

## So Soon

A ninety-year-old lady sat in her rocking chair fondly holding a tiny infant on her lap. As she held his hands in hers, she suddenly declared, "So soon these little hands must work! Soon he must go to school."

The young parents were startled. It would be a long time, they thought, until their child would be working or going to school. First he would need to learn to crawl, to walk, to play; the seven years until first grade stretched far into the future.

But their elderly friend was right. Seven years, which look so long to young parents, look extremely short seven years later. It is but a short while until a child's hands can grasp a rattle; and very soon they will be gripping a pencil. The little feet that in a few short months take tottering steps, soon step into a schoolroom. The growing child, who surprisingly soon frames his first sentence, will be studying sentences in school just as surprisingly soon.

A child's first seven years of life pass rapidly, and the next seven go just as fast. It will be but a short time until, not only the first year of school, but school itself will be past. This means that whatever we are going to do for our children must be done soon. Thinking of school in particular, there is so much to do. We have so many things, both important lessons and small ones, to teach our children. If we take a lax and careless approach to our school responsibilities, we will fail in our duty to train and nurture our children for God.

This calls for teachers to give their best to the work before them. Insufficient lesson preparation and halfhearted presentation are an inexcusable fault. There will not be time later to do things better because later the children will be gone. Parents, too, must give themselves to the work of schooling

their children. They will see that their children get to school, of course, but they must look much further to their child's education. Checking his work, helping when necessary, and providing adequate time for homework (staying home often enough) are some of the responsibilities they dare not neglect.

Another school term is about to begin, and soon--so soon--it will be over. Christian stewardship calls us all to utmost diligence, that we may make full use of the fleeting year before us.

By Ernest D. Wine  
in *The Christian School Builder*

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FOR YOUTH  
LIGHT

A light that's clear and shining  
Is what we're called to bring;  
A glow that is untarnished  
By any earthly thing.

A way that's truly higher  
We're called to demonstrate,  
To help our fellowmen to see  
Their lost and helpless state.

Then if we are no different,  
If truth we fail to show,  
Then, Oh! Our lamp is smoking!  
And how will others know?

--Know they need a Saviour?  
--That there's a better way?  
Our lives must be an open book!  
They're reading us each day!

Susanna Tate



## BAPTISMS

July 15-- Jewel Royer and Charlotte Royer, Wakarusa, Indiana

July 21-- Forrest, Jonathan, and Melissa Tate

Anye and Tyne Brow, Wakarusa, Indiana

July 29-- Chloe and Emily Brandt,

Ryan Flora, West Lebanon, Indiana

May God bless and guide each of these dear young souls.

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NOTE OF THANKS

May God bless each of you who helped our family in the weeks before and after our baby Margaret was born. We thank you for your prayers, mail, food, and all the many things you've done for us.

Neil and Lois Martin and family

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

Nonresistant Nevin

"Plunk-a-plunk-a-plunk-a," Nevin's hay baler went round and round his hay field on the living room carpet. Of course, the "plunk-a-plunk-a" came from Nevin's mouth, but it made his pretend-work seem more real. "I need to finish this hay and get it into the barn before dark," he was thinking. "Hope nothing breaks down."

Just then a big ball rolled right into his tractor and baler, knocking the baler over onto its side. He picked the ball out of his field and gently rolled it back to Janice. "Please try to keep the ball away from my farm," he said.

Janice just giggled and sent the ball right back into the hay field. Once again, it hit the baler. Nevin rolled the ball back to Janice again. He was thinking about all the farm work needing to be done and how he needed to hurry to get the hay baled. Soon he had the baler upright and "plunk-a-plunk-a" continued. He'd almost finished the field when Janice sent the ball toward

him again. This time the baler went flying off the field. When Nevin picked it up, he saw the tongue was broken off. No more hay-baling today!

"Oh!" he cried. "It's broken!" Big tears ran down his cheeks as he carried the toy to Mother to see if she could fix it.

"What happened?" asked Mother.

"It was just an accident, but the tongue broke off my baler," Nevin sobbed. "I can't finish baling today. Can you fix it?"

"I don't think I can, son, but we'll show it to Daddy tonight. He can probably figure out a way to fix it. Can you do some of your other work while you wait?"

"Yes, I can," said Nevin, and back to his farm he went.

Dear Children, let's think a minute. What would you have done the first time the ball rolled into your hay field? Would you have become angry with Janice? What about the second time? Would you have been quite angry and perhaps kicked Janice? The third time, I can imagine you would have been very angry, running to tattle to Mother, saying naughty threats to Janice on the way. Which way is the Bible way, yours or Nevin's? "But I say unto you that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

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## TO FELLOW PILGRIMS

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

Oh weary pilgrim with head bending low,  
Do the troubles of life burden you so?  
There is never a night, neither a day,  
Dark though it be, God is guarding your way.

When the struggles are hard, the toiling uphill,  
Day after day we keep going on still.  
God sees and He knows each sparrow that falls;  
Much more is His care for the Christian who calls.

Dear fellow traveler, the cross that you bear  
May bring you much pain and many a care.  
Our Lord who has suffered much for His bride  
Longs for His children to come to His side.

Then let us hasten to Him with our fears;  
Let us lean on Him heavy with our toil and tears.  
For He promised rest for His people today;  
God in His wisdom will show us a way.

Becky Miller  
Bourbon, Indiana

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## THE MIWUK MEETING HOUSE--NOW HISTORY

How do you say "Goodbye" to something not alive but very dear? This was the question for some of us yesterday as we emptied our MiWuk meeting house and locked the doors for the last time.

We had use of this place for a little over thirty-eight years: May, 1963, to August, 2001. It was where we worshiped in Tuolumne County and later (1979-2001) also a home in the basement for our Christian school. For a few, this was the only formal school they knew.

Our minds go back to the many pleasant times and the many inspirational times spent there. For some it was the place of first things and first memories. Now it has been used (by us) for the last time.

Quite a few dear people have passed on to their reward since the MiWuk church house was opened. Also many new souls were born in our congregation during that time. Only God knows the complete record and value of this place in the history of His Kingdom. Five weddings were performed there, and countless hymns were sung and sermons preached. Good meals were served and precious fellowship was enjoyed. No doubt many decisions were made.

However, this house was just a place for things to happen. Its greatest virtue was that it was dedicated to the service and worship of God. Jesus told the "woman at the well" that the important part was not where but how we worship. He said the time was coming (no doubt, our time) "when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."



Over the years, people on vacation in the Sierras have stopped along the highway to worship with us at the MiWuk church house. Many visitors were hosted--from close friends and relatives to complete strangers. One visitor remarked that he felt our congregation was following God's Word more closely than any other in the county. Others probably saw faults that they were too polite to express. One thing we know: God's view is what counts, and we are needy, failing creatures, dependent upon God's grace and mercy. All the praise and honor belongs to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ for any success or victory.

One snowy morning we arrived at our "basement school room" to find water running down one wall and soaking much of the floor and carpet. Snow had piled up and made a dam that diverted the melting snow water into the building. We had a holiday from school that day.

Our basement room was usually cool. Sometimes when the furnace gave problems, it was too cool, and the students wore coats. Occasionally the power would fail and the lights would go out to the cheers of the students who had hopes of a day off since the room was too dark to study without lights. In the fine weather of spring, we usually moved outside for a day to study in the patio where the tall pines made shade from the bright sun.

The day the MiWuk meeting house was dedicated in 1963, we held two services, morning and afternoon. Our ministers at that time were Elders Christie Cover, Daniel F. Wolf, Paul Clark, and Joseph I. Cover. Besides our own brethren, Old German Baptist Elder Paul Balsbaugh (who had donated the land, wrought iron railings, linoleum) had part in the afternoon dedication service. Elder Daniel Wolf had been the main builder, and we remember him for all his labors and generosity. Others, too, volunteered time, skill, energy and funds. Books could be written about this useful meeting house. It would no doubt still be our place of worship if we had not needed larger

facilities. We invite any who have memories to share, to write them down for possible publication in *The Pilgrim*.

May our thanksgiving and praise abound to our Heavenly Father for His rich provision and blessing--in this case, a pleasant, memorable place to worship for nearly forty years--a house where God's grace abounded to us all through Jesus Christ our Lord. --L.C.

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### THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD

Recently our family was sitting around the supper table later than usual, and after supper I told the children it was time for bed. Our three year old son was not happy to hear that, so I asked him to look at the clock and see for himself. He looked at it momentarily, but of course, he didn't see anything that indicated to him that it was bedtime. Then he looked out the window and saw something he understood: it was dark outside. Sure enough, it was bedtime! But he still wasn't too happy. He looked at me and wailed, "Dad, why did you make it dark?"

I told him I didn't. He said, "Yeshuh, you did the chores." To him it was as obvious as could be. Every evening we go out and milk the cows, then, sure enough, it soon gets dark and it's bedtime. I explained to him it was God that made it get dark. We can't do that. I also told him God does it by making the earth turn or spin. He listened. He knows God does a lot of things. God's power and will are often brought in to answer his many questions. But you could see he was still having trouble believing the truth, contrary to so much "evidence."

We may smile at the ignorance of a child, being able to see the folly in his conclusion. We know that no matter what I did, God was going to make it dark. But do we sometimes appear not much different than the child in God's sight? Do we truly

realize the whole universe, and in particular, our very lives, are ordered and directed by God?

Yes, we know according to God's word, He spoke the universe into being. We know also Romans 13 tells us God ordains the rulers on the earth to their position to fulfill His will. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." I Peter 1:7 says, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." We know these Scriptures, but do we apply them properly to our lives? James 1:2-4 says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." God knows what we need to reach perfection. Paul writes in Romans 5:3-5, ". . . We glory in tribulation. . ." knowing the final result is ". . . the love of God shed abroad in our hearts. . ."

Jesus says in Matthew 18:7, ". . . It must needs be that offences come. . ." It goes on to say, "but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" The Bible speaks severely to those who cause to stumble, or offend a little one. But let us remember that God directs our lives, and He has a good purpose intended for the trials that come our way. God also says, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay."

So at the dark places in our lives, don't look for vengeance; remember that maybe even contrary to what seems, God is in control. I Peter 5:6 tells us, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."

We realize my son would have been a lot better off to humble himself under God's mighty hand, rather than lamenting that his dad brought this darkness upon him. The next morning



the blessing of the night was obvious. When I came in from the barn, I was met by the same three-year-old boy who with shining eyes and outstretched arms shouted "Daddyyy!"

Let's remember our dark places can work the same perfect work in us. Rather than wasting our time lamenting that others made it dark, think of Job's example. Instead of railing on the Sabeans, the fire, the Chaldeans, and the wind that brought so much devastation to his natural life, he said (1:21), "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Also in 23:10 he declared, "When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

May we humble ourselves under God's mighty hand. In the morning the blessing will be obvious.

Neil Martin  
New Paris, Indiana

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### TRUE LOVE--FALSE LOVE (continued from last issue)

In our day, sin is overlooked to the detriment of precious souls. Sin is not called sin. Have we lost the fear of God? The church must deal with sin if we would please God. Many believe they can be saved in their sin. Jesus came to save us from sins. There is a big difference!

Jesus said, ". . . If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him." (Luke 17:3,4) It's a lot easier to tell everyone else except the one who offends us, but it is not right. The Word teaches that we are able to admonish one another. Are we able, or are we too carnal?

Ananias and Sapphira kept back part of the price and lied to the Holy Ghost, and both of them died. The Word says, "And



great fear fell upon the church." Are we keeping back part of the price? When we sing: "Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee," are we being honest?

### A TRUE CHURCH HAS ENOUGH LOVE TO DISCIPLINE

We believe we are in an age of great deception in the matter of discipline. God's Word is yea and amen. It cannot be broken. We will be judged by God's Word. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but Jesus said, "My words shall not pass away." The word is a lamp to our feet, and a light for our pathway. God's Word is holy and pure. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." (John 3:19-21)

Whether with self, in the home, or in the church, if a disciplined life is not held high and sought after, it will cause much sorrow and will head on a downward path. To be a disciple of Christ, one must be disciplined. "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27)

I fear we are too careless about making rules that may not meet God's approval. When this happens, subconsciously discipline is weakened. We need to be more careful about seeking the mind of God through prayer, fasting, and searching the Word. When we can support our position from Scripture, this will have a drawing affect upon true seekers. "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?" (Col. 2:20-22) If this were not a possibility, this warning

would not be in the Bible. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Here are some Scriptures and teachings from early church history on church discipline. May we consider them seriously.

I Cor. 5:6: ". . . Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"

II Thess. 3:14: "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed."

Irenaeus: "All of those who separate from the church and give heed to old wives' tales, like these persons, are truly self-condemned. Paul commands to avoid (these men) after a first and second admonition."

Clement: "The physician is not evil to the sick person because he tells him of his fever; he only points out the fever. Likewise he who reproves is not ill disposed towards him who is diseased in soul. For he is not the cause of the transgression on him. He only reveals the sins that are there."

Cyprian: "How can the medicine of permissiveness profit anyone? What if a physician hides the wound and does not allow the necessary remedy of time to close the scar? To not require repentance makes the way easy for new dangers. To do that is not curing someone. If we are honest, it is slaying him."

Cyprian: "Contrary to the vigor of the Gospel, contrary to the law of the Lord, Communion is relaxed to heedless persons. But this is a vain and false peace. It is dangerous to those who grant it. . ."

Apostolic Constitutions: Sin that passes by without correction grows worse and worse and spreads to others. For a little leaven infects the whole lump.

Apostolic Constitutions: When he does repent and has submitted to his chastisement, receive him, remembering, there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.

In Christian love, Kenneth Garber, Athens, Wisconsin

## OBITUARY

MARY HELEN (POWELL) CULP was born August 15, 1919, to Lewis J. and Ida (Hertzler) Powell in South English, Iowa. She had two older brothers: John S. (1912) and Lewis J. (1913). Later a sister, Dorothy Mae, came into the family.

Before her teenage years, she was baptized and became a member of the Liberty Mennonite Church near South English. After graduating from the small town school, she taught for several years in a couple Iowa country schools. Later she taught some classes at Western Mennonite School in its early years, one year at Conestoga Christian School (Morgantown, PA), completed the better part of a term at Clinton Christian School (Goshen, IN), and even taught a few weeks once in southern Belize.

On June 20, 1942, she was married to G. Richard Culp in a small private service in her parents' home. A few months later Richard was required to serve in Civilian Public Service (CPS--for conscientious objectors to war) until he was released in April, 1946. Most of this time Mary was able to live nearby, and the last year they could have a more normal home life.

Five children were born: John Ernest (1946, Iowa), Paul Norman (1948, Oregon), Helen Marie (1949, Oregon), James Conrad (1951, Oregon), and Ruth Edith (1956, Pennsylvania). They lived at various places in Oregon, Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Indiana.

In the fall of 1995, Richard and Mary moved to the Halsey area in Oregon, not far from where three of their children were living. In 1998 she noticed shortness of breath at times. Later that year she broke a pelvic bone. This healed, but she never fully regained her active lifestyle. She was diagnosed as having chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including emphysema. In spite of efforts and prayers for her healing or improvement, her condition slowly worsened. In 2000 she was in the hospital three times. Once her heart stopped, but she was



revived, and on the fifth day she came home. In December she seemed to feel fairly well for her condition. She was in the hospital again in February, 2001, and again in March, May, and June. The last time she went in was Friday evening, June 29. She could still communicate, but she soon slipped into semi-consciousness and then unconsciousness. Most of the immediate family were present well into the night, but only her daughter was there at 8:00 Tuesday morning when she breathed her last, and her "spirit returned unto God who gave it."

Family members who died before included a son James (1964), her father (1972), her mother (1984), her brother Lewy (1989), and her brother John (1999). Those still living include her husband, Richard (Halsey, Oregon); two sons, John (Halsey, Oregon) and Paul (Middlebury, Indiana); two daughters, Helen (Shedd, Oregon), and Ruth, Mrs. Jason Schrock (Halsey, Oregon); One sister, Dorothy Schaeffer (Angola, Indiana); and ten grandchildren as well as five step-grandchildren and their children.

Those who knew Mary will remember her for her gracious and cheerful spirit, her ready smile, and her interest in others. Her family, who better knew her humanness, will likewise remember her for her desire to do what pleased the Lord, her love and commitment to her family and friends, her unwillingness to nurse grudges, her efforts to be content with her place in life, and her expressions of encouragement. Even after breathing became a dominant focus in her life, she kept up contacts with friends and relatives, at times dictating letters. Even in the last few weeks, as her requests for attention seemed almost beyond the capabilities of those closest to her, she showed at times that she could still notice and compliment others.

We miss her, but her departure has released her from her distress. Nothing we could offer can compare with what "the Lord has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12)



"I am the Resurrection and the Life. The one who believes in me, though he should die, will live. And the one who lives and believes in me will never die, forever. Do you believe this? (John 11:25,26) Yes, Lord, we believe.

The Family

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## HYMN HISTORY

### Am I a Soldier of the Cross

Even as a child, Isaac Watts liked to make rhymes. His father scolded him for making rhymes in ordinary conversation, and Isaac responded. "Oh, Father, do some pity take, and I will no more verses make." But he continued to write poems.

As an older teenager, Isaac wrote a new hymn every week for two years. Many of his hymns are paraphrases of the Psalms. Watts is the author of "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," "Before Jehovah's Awful Throne," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Come We That Love the Lord," and "Joy to the World."

When a thirty-year-old blind woman heard a choir sing Isaac Watt's hymn "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?" stanza after stanza stirred her heart, but when they came to the final line, "Here, Lord, I give myself away," she gave herself away to the Lord as well. That blind woman was Fanny Crosby.

In the early eighteenth century, when Isaac Watts was preaching in England, he frequently would write a hymn to illustrate his sermon. After preaching the sermon, he (or a clerk in the church) would teach the congregation the hymn by singing two lines and then having the congregation repeat those lines. Then he would sing two more lines, which would be echoed by the congregation, and so on. One Sunday the sermon text was I Corinthians 16:13: "Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith." At that time many Nonconformist believers

were imprisoned for their views, even as Watt's own father had been. As he closed the sermon, he began the hymn:

Am I a soldier of the cross?

A follower of the Lamb?

And shall I fear to own His cause

Or blush to speak His name?

Information from *The One Year Book of Hymns*, compiled and edited by Robert K. Brown and Mark R. Norton @ 1995. Devotions written by William J. Petersen. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

Jean Martin

Nappanee, Indiana

### BIRTHS

ROYER - A daughter, Krista Autumn, born August 3 to Merrill and Martha Royer of Goshen, Indiana.

BEERY - A son, Joshua Jon, born August 11 to Daniel and Miriam Beery of Nappanee, Indiana.

HUFFMAN - A son, Elbert Jed, born August 16 to Philip and Rhoda Huffman of New Lebanon, Ohio.

MARTIN - A son, Jera Marie, born August 18 to Jon and Lisa Martin of Nappanee, Indiana.

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Old Brethren Church and Old Brethren Christian School have moved to

19220 Cherokee Road

Tuolumne, California

(209) 928-5822

Thou hast given so much to me. . . Give one thing more:  
a grateful heart.

--George Herbert

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS  
Wondering--Pondering--Convinced

"Do you like school?" "Do you like your teacher?" You have heard these questions asked many times and most likely have asked them yourself. So did I. But lately I have been wondering whether it is wise to ask them. Are we not by these questions allowing the child the privilege of deciding whether or not he "likes" something that He really should not need to dislike?

School is a part of his life, and he may as well like it. We do not ask children, "Do you like your mother?" "Do you like your father?" So why ask, "Do you like your teacher?" I am convinced that we should stop putting into their heads that, "Oh, maybe I do not need to like school." Let us stop giving them the idea that perhaps they do not like their teachers!

Yes, I know how it goes. You meet Brother John's Nelson in the vestibule at church. "Good morning, Nelson," ("Well, now what should I say?") "Do you like school? Do you like your teacher?" Or your niece comes to your house Tuesday evening. "Well, how's school going? Do you like it?" Instead, why not ask questions such as: "Did you have any visitors at school this week?" "Did you miss any days of school yet this year?" "What are you studying in social studies now?" "How many girls are in your grade at school?" "What did you do at school on Wednesday when it was so windy?" Let "Do you like school? Do you like your teacher?" pass out of existence.

From *The Christian School Builder*

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The blossom cannot tell what becomes of its odor, and no man can tell what becomes of his influence and example that roll away from him and go beyond his view.

Selected

FOR YOUTH  
A Song of Praise

My God, my Father, Blessed Friend!  
Thy love has crowned my days;  
Each morn surrounds my every step  
In many myriad ways.

And while my strength and vigor last,  
Let me show forth Thy praise;  
Let service born of gratitude  
Fill all my busy days.

My life is Yours--a gift too small  
So great a debt to pay!  
But all I am, or have, I bring  
At Thy dear feet to lay.

Accept my simple offering--  
Lord Jesus, take my all;  
And when my days are ended here  
I trust I'll hear Thy call.

And in that blessed Home above,  
I'll pour before Thee all my love~

FOREVER!

Susanna Tate

---

Time spent on the knees in prayer will do more to remedy  
heart strain and nerve worry than anything else.

George David Stewart



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## Enthusiastic Emil

Three boys came clattering down the stairs Monday morning. They had "slept in" because they had talked until very late the night before. Luke and Willie didn't get to stay with Emil often, so they had a lot to talk about. When Emil reached the bottom step, he saw five large buckets of green beans sitting by the table. "We get to snap beans! Oh, goody!" he said.

"What?" said Willie. "What do we get to do?"

"Snap beans!" Emil answered. "Look, five big buckets full, and Mother is probably still picking. What fun!"

"Oh," groaned Luke. "Do we have to snap all those beans? I wanted to ride your pony this morning."

"You don't know how much fun snapping beans can be," Emil told them. "But come on. Let's eat some cereal for breakfast. Here's some orange juice, too."

After the boys had eaten, Emil got three big dishpans out of the sink-cupboard. Each boy took a dishpan and grabbed the handle of a bucket of beans. "To the front porch, boys," Emil said. "Everybody find a seat and dump your bucket of beans in a heap beside you. Break both ends off each bean; then break the bean into three pieces. Put the ends in the bucket and the three bean pieces into your dishpan. We'll race! Don't start till I say you can."

"Race, indeed!" Luke muttered. "We'll be all day doing these beans."

"You'll see," said Emil. "Are you all set up? Ready, here we GO!"

"Snap--snap--snap, snap, snap, snap," and all three boys were concentrating on breaking green beans. No one talked for fifteen minutes. Then Emil and the boys began to visit as they broke beans, but their fingers still flew fast. It wasn't very long till they noticed their piles were almost gone, and their dishpans

were full. "It's a close race," Emil said. "I have six beans--no, five beans now."

"I'm done!" Willie yelled. "I beat!"

"I'm second," Luke said.

"And I'm third," Emil said as he snapped his last bean. "Now, let's each grab another bucket and this time we'll see how loud we can make them snap."

As the boys entered the kitchen, Mother smiled. "Good morning, boys. I believe you are obeying Ecclesiastes 9:10. What wonderful helpers you are!"

Later, when the boys looked up Ecclesiastes 9:10, they read with interest, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. . ."

"It was your enthusiasm, Emil, that got us enthused. This has been a fun morning," Luke and Willie told him.

Linda Frick

Gettysburg, Ohio

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# THE PILGRIM

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VOL. 48

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Nos. 10 & 11

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And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)

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## PRAISE, O PRAISE OUR GOD AND KING

Praise, O praise our God and King!  
Hymns of adoration sing;  
For His mercies still endure,  
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise Him that He made the sun  
Day by day his course to run  
And the silver moon by night,  
Shining with her gentle light.

Praise Him that He gave the rain  
To mature the swelling grain;  
And hath bid the fertile field  
Of its precious fruits to yield.

Praise Him for our harvest-store,  
He hath filled the garner-floor;  
And for richer food that this,  
Pledge of everlasting bliss.

Glory to our bounteous King;  
Glory let creation sing;  
Glory to the Father, Son,  
And blest Spirit, Three in One.

H. W. Baker, 1861

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## FREELY GIVE

Jesus saw desperate needs in His world when He told His disciples, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." To meet the needs, He sent His apostles to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel," and He told them what they would encounter. He said they would be as sheep in the midst of wolves. He said they would be betrayed and delivered up to councils, governors, and kings--that they would be scourged and hated and persecuted. He commissioned them to "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out devils." Then He charged them, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

We, too, have received so freely from our Heavenly Father. As we approach another thanksgiving season, do we sense a duty upon us besides giving thanks for what God has given? We have been given much that the first disciples never had. Jesus poured out His teaching and His love on those men. But they did not ride around in comfortable cars or have hot and cold running water in their homes. They didn't have super markets full of food, or microwaves or computers or dishwashers. Yet Jesus told them, "Freely ye have received, freely give." What had they received that was so important to give?

Those men were like Simeon in the temple when he held the baby Jesus in his arms and rejoiced, ". . . mine eyes have seen thy salvation." They saw fulfilled what God had promised centuries before. They said things like "Thou art the Christ," "We know and are sure," "We have seen with our eyes, . . . we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life." Jesus told Peter, "Feed my lambs; feed my sheep."



While we do thank God for the rich material blessings, we must realize that they bring heavy responsibility and even danger. Like rich food clogging arteries and endangering the heart, rich blessings can also make sluggish spiritual life and peril to our souls. To be careful and thankful is our duty, but it is not enough. Jesus said, "Freely give." We, too, have received the blessings of salvation. We have the riches of His Word giving us the testimony of faithful men and women who walked and talked with our Savior. Are we, too, commanded to go to lost sheep? Yes.

Regarding the material blessings, we are to use them as faithful stewards, without wasting. We have a poor example of frugality from our affluent society. But it is elementary teaching in the Word. The prodigal son "wasted his substance with riotous living." Paul writes in Ephesians 4:28: "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, *that he may have to give to him that needeth.*"

Since September 11 when New York and Washington, D.C. were attacked by terrorists, Americans are realizing that this wealth and privilege we have could change suddenly. It should be a "wake up call" to all of us. There may not be much more time for the Church to testify in the world. Have we been put to sleep the past decades? Does it matter that we have so much while millions in the world are needy? Is the "pearl of great price" something to hide and hoard? Or are we, too, commissioned to share the Gospel and the good things God has poured out on us. "Freely ye have received, freely give."

We read of the devotion of Paul, Stephen, Peter, and John. We see also worthy examples in our time: those at Torreón, the Becks, the workers in Central America, Ralph and others in China and Africa, and those sharing freely of time, treasure, and talents right here at home. Serving God by serving one another

is not limited to certain places. The servant heart is needed in the home, school, church, and in every community.

God does not need what He has given us, He tells us through the Psalmist: "If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof." (50:12) To serve God, we must serve our fellowmen. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

May our thanksgiving this season be one of giving, of serving, of sharing the abundance, both natural and spiritual, that God has given us. --L.C.

### THANKFUL?

Are we thankful to the Savior  
For the wondrous love He showed?  
Have we promised to go with Him,  
Even to the cross so low?

If we have the thankful spirit  
Dwelling deep within our hearts,  
We will love and daily serve Him  
With the means our God imparts.

How then do we daily serve Him?  
He does not our means require.  
If He hungers He won't tell us;  
He owns earth and sea and fire.

We must serve our fellow pilgrims;  
Thus our thankfulness to show;  
Only in this way acknowledge  
That from Him all blessings flow.

Our dear brethren need to see us  
Holding up their names in prayer;  
We should bear each others burdens;  
Know each cross, perceive each care.

Freely give, for we have freely  
Had so much to come our way.  
We can show that we are thankful  
When we give and when we pray. --L.C.

*We are sorry this Pilgrim is late and that October and November are combined into one issue. Since we did this, our fall Communion meetings were not given advance notice. For the record, there was a Lovefeast meeting in Indiana on October 6 and 7, and in California October 20 and 21. We thank God and all who worked so faithfully, that our new meetinghouse in Tuolumne, California, is now in use for services and for school. The first service was on Sunday, September 9, and two well-attended services were held Sunday, October 14, the day of dedication. --L.C.*

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#### SUBTLE ATTACK

Early Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, as I waited to deliver a load of squabs, I turned on the radio in the truck and heard a national news alert that has altered the focus of this nation and no doubt will affect the course of world history. Terrorism of huge magnitude was inflicted on American soil! As millions of citizens look to God in this time of stress, we hope many will repent and truly turn to the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to direct their lives by the Word of God. The question of why the Lord allows such loss of human life and untold suffering goes unanswered in our minds. We do know that the root of the problem is the enemy of God, Lucifer the

devil, the inventor of the lie. The purpose of terrorism is to weaken and destroy. The enemy hopes to disrupt and divert the course or process of a government or society with the purpose of exploiting or gaining control. This can be underhanded and severe.

This tactic is not new to the Christian Church. Satan has waged subtle attack against mankind ever since his confrontation with our mother Eve. This attack is on the spiritual level and is very subtle and effective. The prime object of attack in recent years has been upon the very Word of God. The numerous translations of the Bible is one of the most effective ways to alter the meaning of the Word. For example, the addition of the article "the" in the seventh chapter, fourteenth verse of Revelation changes the context from indicating a personal experience to referring to a theoretical period of time. I am puzzled when I attend a church service or Bible study and realize there are several translations of the Bible being used. How effective would it be if in school each student could bring the text book of his choice just as long as it touches on the subject being studied? I strongly feel this is a tactic of Satan which has subtly affected the Church of today.

I realize there are areas in the translation of the King James version of the Bible that are difficult to understand, but in what little study I have made I have found the King James translation of the Bible to be the most authentic and proven translation, and I can see no reason to discontinue using it in our public study and worship. We probably all refer to various translations of the Bible in our private study, but this should be done with care, for each translation has differences that can alter the context of the Word. The teaching of the Word can only be most effective if everyone is using the same Bible. This may seem rather insignificant to some, but I believe this is a subtle attack upon the Church.

Joseph Wagner, Modesto, California



## TRUE UNITY

Recent events on the world scene have offered us a dramatic example of how a common enemy will quickly unify a fractious group of people. Almost before the dust and smoke had settled from the once proud World Trade Towers, the political parties of America laid aside their petty differences to confront the terror of an enemy they could not see. Equally astounding was the almost unanimous voice of world leaders who encouraged the leadership of America to act decisively in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. And so as it now stands, the nations of the world stand united in their defense against the naked terrorism that is rooted in Islamic fundamentalism.

As Christians it is not our responsibility or duty to criticize the government that presides over our everyday lives. With all due respect to our national leaders and the difficult decisions that they must make, I offer here a few observations and ask you to think about the characteristics and quality of unity in our churches.

Let us remember that a unity founded on reaction to a common enemy is a weak unity at best. Remember, not too many years ago, the United States was allied with Osama bin Laden and the Taliban against what was then the Soviet Union because the USSR was considered a worthy foe for such an awkward alliance. How quickly these alliances have been reshuffled! Clearly a unity that is built upon fear of a common enemy is fragile and fickle, lacking the stability of a transcendent cause and unchangeable principles.

But can we expect more than this from the nations who have forgotten that there is God who rules over heaven and earth? I think not! However, there is a "holy nation" present on earth

that has been shown a better way to a nobler unity. I speak of the Church of Jesus Christ. The Church does have a transcendent cause embodied in the Kingdom of God that, when properly understood, becomes a powerful discerning voice for the cause of holy unity. It is also true that the people of God have a body of eternal, unalterable principles and precepts to temper and define our unity.

But I am troubled! I have heard sermon after sermon and read many articles that urge us toward unity. In spite of these efforts, there is a continual fragmentation that relentlessly destroys our communities and renders them impotent. Something is wrong! I do not herein offer a comprehensive solution, but I offer a few questions for us to consider. Just exactly what are the core issues around which we are attempting to build oneness? Are they linked to a transcendent cause and eternal principles? Just how transient and changeable are our core issues in reality? How "political" are they in their nature? Are we committed to honest examination of the "bottom line"? Does the character of our people have adequate resolve and loyalty to remain committed to a reasonably defined cause and to the principles that Christians have held for nearly 2000 years? Are we playing games with trivia?

Brethren, I think we must wrestle well with these questions, or the unity that we seek will forever elude us and our posterity. The impact of two airliners as they slammed into the World Trade Towers shook the civilized world to its roots. But may I boldly say that if God's people will rally as one man to the great cause of the Kingdom of God's dear Son and if they will bow themselves before the great principles of the Kingdom, the impact of September 11, 2001, in New York City will seem but child's play. Let us follow our Lord into the oneness that He had with His heavenly Father.

Melvin Lehman

Selected from *Faith Builders*

## REFLECTIONS

I came to the foreign field to teach  
The way of humility,  
But I learned to be poor in spirit, Lord,  
For the people here taught me.

I came to show them how to trust,  
But it wasn't long before  
They taught me in a simple way  
That I need to trust You more.

I came that I might minister  
And a willing servant be,  
But before I knew what happened, Lord,  
They ministered to me.

And then they taught me patience,  
(Though I confess I need it still)  
And though I came to give them love,  
I received more than my fill.

I came to give, I came to love,  
I came to teach and show,  
But I'll leave a richer, wiser girl  
When Thou dost bid me go.

Sacrifice? Some call it that,  
But the truth must here be told,  
That the treasures of the foreign field  
Are worth much more than gold.

Michelle Richard  
Selected by Annalee Taylor

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS VIEWS

## Christian Schools--A Priceless Privilege

The world around us is concerned about their public school system. They are unsettled by the functional illiterates that are coming out of their schools. Some parents are concerned by the way the school belittles and contradicts the moral values that they would like to pass on to their children. They are fearful for the safety of their children as school shootings increase. They say that something needs to be done, and they have many ideas of what that something should be.

We sit back and say, "That's not us. Our schools would never be like that." And we thank God that they are not. But it is good for us to stop and consider why our schools do not have these problems. There is *something* that makes a difference.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10) Here we find that something that eludes the educators of the world. Instead of promoting self-expression and instead of turning to psychology and humanism to solve our problems, we turn to the Word of God.

Parents who are bringing up their children in the fear of God, who are teaching their children about God and His requirements for mankind, endeavor to place their children in a school that reinforces what they are teaching at home. This is why we go to all the effort and expense to operate our own schools.

May we never become lax and begin to question the necessity or value of our schools. Our schools are more than just a nice alternative to public education. They are a priceless privilege that aids us in the nurture of our children. As we again face a school year, may we conduct it in the fear of God so that we might pass on true wisdom to our children.

By Jonathan Reinford in *The Christian School Builder*



## GRATITUDE

In spite of being weary,  
Lift up your hearts and sing;  
Within yourselves be cheery,  
Your candle you can bring  
With thanks for richest blessings,  
A smile for others there,  
For in your daily musings--  
Yes, all of us have cares.

Prepare yourselves at night time  
With thanks and gratitude  
For the things that turned out right,  
For health, our homes, and food,  
For the spiritual treasures,  
For answers to our prayers,  
God's blessings beyond measure,  
That show He loves and cares.

At the dawning, waking thought,  
Why I am live and well;  
Turbulence, I heard it not.  
In thanks my thoughts assail  
To realms with God in Heaven;  
My thoughts are gratitude,  
For my, how well we're living;  
God's given--to me and you.

For gratitude's not giving,  
In thanks when all is well,  
But thanks in how we're living,  
In thanks our hearts shall sail.

It's counting still our blessings,  
 Whatever comes our way;  
 Still in our minds professing  
 How good God is today!

Is gratitude the mind set  
 In spite of come what may?  
 In thanks let me not forget  
 The blessings in our day.  
 In our hearts we're still singing  
 To God in humble praise;  
 It's gratitude we're bringing,  
 For God has blessed our days.

Vicki L. Witmer  
 New Madison, Ohio

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#### BAPTISMS

Andrew Albers October 6 Wakarusa, Indiana  
 Melanie Albers October 6 Received on her former baptism  
 Mark and Claudia Brow October 27 Wakarusa, Indiana

God bless and direct these dear ones who have united with us.

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#### ADOPTION

DINGMAN - A daughter, Irina Eliana, born April 4, 2000, in  
 Luga, Russia, and adopted July 12, 2001, in St. Petersburg,  
 Russia, by Dan and Joyce Dingman of Bradford, Ohio.

---

#### ADDRESS ADDITIONS

Andrew and Melanie Albers 344 Knight to Oak Grove Rd.  
 Mt. Olive, MS 39119 (601) 797-9422

Mark and Claudia Brow 69067 C.R. 27  
 New Paris, IN 26553 (219) 831-5672

CHILDREN'S PAGE  
On the Road to Heaven

"Look, Burnell, that truck has two flags on it." Callie said, pointing to the left side of the van. And there are three cars in a row with flags on them."

"There's another truck with two flags flying behind the cab." Burnell said. "That's neat! Dad, let's get flags and put them on our pickup."

"Yes, let's put flags in our house windows, too," Callie said. "Lots and lots of houses have flags in the windows and other red, white, and blue decorations. They are so pretty."

"Children," Dad said, "do you know why people are putting flags and other red, white, and blue decorations all over?"

"No, why?" Burnell asked.

"Why, Dad?" Callie asked.

"It's because people want to show that they are loyal to the United States, and that no matter what the President does about the terrorists, they will support him," Dad explained. "If the United States gets involved in a war, these people are saying they will support the war."

"We support the United States, too, don't we?" Callie asked. "So why don't we get one flag, at least?"

"We're very thankful to live in the United States," Dad replied. "We have a good life here with plenty to eat and freedom to worship God and to travel places. But, we're on the road to heaven, so we don't display flags. The United States is only an earthly country and our King (God) has asked us not to fight in earthly battles. Instead, we are to show love to everyone and return good for evil."

"And because we are on the road to heaven," Mother added, "we don't need to decorate our houses, cars, or bodies. Decorations are so frivolous and unnecessary. People on the

road to heaven want to keep their lives simple so they can concentrate on serving the Lord."

"Oh," said Callie.

"I'm glad to be on the road to heaven," Burnell said.

Linda Frick

Gettysburg, Ohio

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### OBITUARY

Esther Elizabeth (Thut) Beck was born August 29, 1913, to John and Anna (Brubaker) Thut in Harper, Kansas. She grew up on the family's homesteaded, irrigated farm in LaJunta, Colorado, until the age of twelve, when her family moved back to Kansas where her father became a school teacher and was ordained to the ministry in the Cold Springs Mennonite Church. As a young teenager she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and started a life-long commitment to Him. She interrupted her high school education for two years to stay at home to help care for a baby sister, and after graduating from Harper High School, she enrolled in Mennonite Nursing School in LaJunta, Colorado, developing spiritually as well as academically under the influence of Director Erb, so that on her graduation and passing her State Board Nursing Examination in 1936, she was committed to follow her Lord wherever He might lead her. After her fourth year at LaJunta as nursing supervisor, she accepted an invitation to serve in the Mennonite Brethren Hospital in Hillboro, Kansas, where she was one of two "Englishers" in a thoroughly German institution.

While working at Memorial Hospital in Wauseon, Ohio, she met a young Goshen College freshman, home working in a local cabinet shop during summer vacation, and both their lives were changed forever. Two years later when he was drafted to military service and registered as a conscientious objector to war, they had committed themselves to marry upon his promised release two years later. Pearl Harbor shattered those



dreams. Some days later she received a phone call from Sideling, Pennsylvania, where he was stationed, stating that by Christmas Day he would have earned five days of furlough. Did she want to wait thirty-five years to celebrate their wedding or marry on Christmas Day. Her answer: "Christmas Day." On Christmas Evening, 1941, she was joined in Holy Matrimony to Carl Beck at his parents' farm home in rural Wauseon, Ohio, in the presence of thirty-two close friends.

Later she served with her husband at Farnhurst, Delaware, and Marlboro Mental Hospital in New Jersey, Esther as a paid nursing supervisor, Carl as an unpaid CO orderly, three year old Carol in the nursery for children of volunteers.

In December, 1945, four months after the war ended, they were released from Civilian Public Service and headed back to the vacated family farm near Wauseon, Ohio, and Carl resumed cabinetmaking. By November, 1949, they had completed the necessary training, persuaded Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities to open a church planting mission in our recent enemy, Japan, and on December 16, landed in Yokohama port city, in the midst of the terrible destruction meted out by our bombers. For fifty short years, Esther served humbly with her husband in Osaka, then in Hokkaido, the sub-Siberian northernmost major island of Japan, and Tokyo fifteen years later where many of our Hokkaido members had moved as a result of company transfers and educational pursuits. In Tokyo their mission was expanded to all of South East Asia and resulted in the formation in 1964 of the Asian Mennonite Conference which is still a vital part of the Mennonite churches of Asia.

In the winter of 1986, they chose our Sierra foothills for their sunset years, still traveling to Tokyo in a church planting capacity and hosting a constant flow of local and international visitors. Esther made her last mission to Japan and Mongolia in 1999 and suffered her first major stroke on November 2 of that year. This little woman has left us a legacy of servanthood, of

interdenominational love, an encouraging word, patience in suffering, a frugal, sacrificing spirit, a love for hospitality, and living within your means.

On Sunday, October 28, after a most blessed day at Sierra Pines German Baptist Brethren Church Love Feast, our Heavenly Father called her home to rest with Him, a move she had anticipated for several months. Esther was two months into her eighty-ninth year and two months short of their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

Esther leaves behind Carl, her companion of nearly sixty years, four children: Carol, John, Sarah, and Sharon; seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren; two sisters; four sisters-in-law; four brothers-in-law; and hosts of relatives and friends on two continents. She was preceded in death by both parents, an older brother, two younger sisters, five brothers-in-law, three sisters-in-law, and one grandson.

Her life was characterized by the hymn sung at their commissioning: "Go Labor On."

Funeral services were held in both California and also Ohio where she was buried.

--Her devoted husband

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (I John 4:14)"

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## WE WOULD SEE JESUS

We would see Jesus; lo, His star is shining  
Above the stable while the angels sing;  
There in a manger on the hay reclining;  
Haste, let us lay our gifts before the King.

We would see Jesus; Mary's Son most holy,  
Light of the village life from day to day;  
Shining revealed through every task most lowly;  
The Christ of God, the life, the truth, the way.

We would see Jesus, on the mountain teaching,  
With all the listening people gathered round;  
While birds and flowers and sky above are preaching  
The blessedness which simple trust has found.

We would see Jesus, in the early morning,  
Still as of old He calleth, "Follow me."  
Let us arise, all meaner service scorning;  
Lord, we are Thine, we give ourselves to Thee.

By J. Edgar Park

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## LET US NOW GO

"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." The shepherds had heard and had seen the heavenly messengers when they announced the birth of the Savior. It was only one of the many signs and prophecies from God to man, but it was enough to convince these humble men. In our time there is sad, deplorable unbelief. If only we had seen and heard this message, we too would believe and investigate.

Oh how we would investigate! Reporters with their microphones and notebooks would vie for space and time to hear first hand the report of the shepherds. The message would be beamed around the world to every radio and TV set. Airlines would be swamped with reservations by those who wished to see the place.

Or would they? Sometimes it seems that the activities reported, swallowed, and relished most are the sensational homicides, the political plots, and not to mention the latest pleasures available: the luxury cruises, the gambling casinos, the questionably occult stories--even aimed at children.

But let us focus on something more positive, more lasting and real--the truth of God. Let us go even to Bethlehem, in the spirit, and magnify the world-shaking event that took place there so quietly, so unpretentiously. After all, what is big in our thinking? What counts the most? Is it pleasure "for a season"? Or are we wise enough to differentiate and evaluate time and eternity? Can our minds, which God created to reach out far beyond that given to the beasts, grasp the everlasting values described in God's Word? Has the Savior really come and made a difference for all time (and eternity)? What happened in



Bethlehem so small and insignificant among the Roman cities of the time?

Let us go even unto Bethlehem, but let's not stop there as though it is the end of the story or even the most important chapter. Let us follow our Saviour as He selflessly ministers to the miseries of the time. Let us analyze the reactions of a surprised and horrified enemy as Jesus broke all the rules, scrapped all the notions, and shocked all the onlookers of a sin-crazed, God forsaking, misguided world. Set us go even to Calvary and see Him provide the answer, the only answer, to the accusations of a treacherous enemy--as He truly gave the last measure of devotion and His precious blood to rescue His people. Let us in the spirit witness His resurrection, the victory over death for all His followers.

Let us go even to Mount Olivet and see Him rise from the earth to heaven and hear the heavenly messenger promise the gazing Galilean disciples that "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Hear the warning and promise of the Savior Himself in Luke 21:27,28: "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Let us go; let us bow and worship; let us believe and obey; let us tell a lost world that Jesus is coming again. --L.C.

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### THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Break forth, O glorious morning,  
Not like the old day's dawning light  
That every morn anew returns!  
It is a blazing from afar,  
A shimmering, a glowing star,  
That in the highest heaven burns.

For now a King of all the worlds,  
Eternally decreed to save,  
Is born an infant tender.  
The devil has his ancient power  
On humankind the whole world o'er  
Now tried and lost forever.  
God's heaven is not far from men,  
The blessed time draws near to earth,  
The time of love and freedom.  
O Christians all, let discord cease,  
Arise to life, to work in peace  
And live now for God's Kingdom.

An everlasting, loving bond  
Holds firm each house and every land,  
The world itself enfolding.  
We all a holy people form--  
The lion playing with the lamb,  
The child the serpent holding.

Who is there still that waits in fear?  
The Child lies in the manger here,  
He smiles on all serenely.  
We greet Thee, King of all the stars,  
We greet Thee, Saviour of the world,  
Upon this earth we welcome Thee!

Max von Schenkendorf (1783-1817)  
from the German "Brich an, du schnes Morgenlicht"

Our world is constantly fighting and feuding over issues of greed, jealousy, and all manner of human evils that have ever been invented. It is good that we as Christians keep in mind the purpose of the One who came as a baby over 2000 years ago. The meek and lowly Jesus stooped to the lowest place to be born in the reeking abode of animals. He was laid in an animal's feeding trough. What kind of King is that? And yet, He had angels proclaim His birth--but not to the rulers and religious elite. No, they proclaimed it to humble shepherds--

men who cherished in their simple hearts the hope of the Messiah and promise of the ages that a star would come from Jacob and a Sceptre of Israel rise forth. They believed with childlike simplicity that God could work in their very lives. Or there were the wise men, educated men who were seemingly searching for something. They were men who also in childlike simplicity believed God could and did work His marvels in nature and in lives. They were willing to go and sacrifice a great journey for something they believed was greatly important!

What kind of King was this, and what is His Kingdom like?

As believers and disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are forbidden by our Lord's teachings to take part in the warfare of worldly governments. They are so far removed from the meek and lowly spirit of Jesus. Nonresistance is at the heart of the Gospel, and followers of Christ must meet this basic teaching. Anyone who claims Christ as Saviour must own and follow Him as Lord. Our forefathers agreed that the only Christian government that exists is the Church of Jesus Christ. At baptism we each confessed that we follow these teachings. The way of Christ is not carnal force and earthly power-seeking but peace and love toward all men.

But what is the other side of this teaching of nonresistance? There is not only the **negative** of avoiding carnal warfare and power seeking, but there is the **positive**: a new community in Christ brought about by Him in the peace He came to bring.

In John 10 we read, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. . . and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." This great King who pictures Himself to us as a lowly Shepherd gathering His sheep into His fold, was also the one that "should die for that nation; *And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.*" (11:51b,52) We can see here clearly that the kingdom of our blest Saviour

was to be His fold--the gathered body that we now call the Church.

The apostle Paul brings this truth out so clearly in Ephesians 2:13-20. We who are in Christ Jesus are brought together by the blood of our Lord who is our peace. And Christ has broken down the wall of partition between Jew and Gentile and made one new body--a body under the banner of the cross. We who have been grafted in have had this peace preached to us, and therefore now we are fellowcitizens of God's household. The Church of Jesus Christ is now the habitation of God through the Spirit. The description of this "habitation" in Acts 2 and 4 is something I believe we should see as the norm for the true church. They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine: fellowship (community), breaking of bread, prayer, great joy, and material sharing. Those who are filled with the Spirit can simply do no other.

In Colossians the apostle teaches us clearly that we have been translated out of darkness into the kingdom of light in Jesus, the venerated Head of the body who has made peace through the blood of His cross and brought us together in one body.

It is only through the Church that nonresistance can be fully believed and practised. If we believe in the peace that Christ came to bring, then we must beat our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruninghooks. The wolf must lie down with the kid and the lion eat straw like the ox. True, this may have millennial connotations, but I believe it is to be also fulfilled in our time in a figurative way. If we cannot be at love and peace, and share with one another in every way as a people who have been reconciled through the blood of the cross and enlivened by the resurrection of our Lord, then all proclamations of our belief in peace are a farce.

This is the peace that was foretold by the prophets. Isaiah 11:10: "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which



# PILGRIM INDEX--2001

## ARTICLES

At the Foot of the Cross --L.C.	Apr
Blest Tie --Elma Moss	Jul
Condemnation or Consequences --Mary E. Martin	Jul
Cross of 2001 --L.C.	Mar
Freedom and Liberty --Ron Cable	Mar/Apr
Freely Give --L.C.	Oct-Nov
Gratitude --Selected from SCH Scanner	Feb
Honor Thy Father --Mary Ann Martin	Jun
Let Us Now Go --L.C.	Dec
Mothers --L.C.	May
Naturally --Anita Toews, Selected	Aug
Perfecting Holiness --Kenneth Martin	Aug
Power Shortage? --L.C.	Feb
Praying for Our Children --Sel. by Leona Miller	Feb
Prophecy Becomes History --Kenneth Martin	Mar
Rest Or Pride --L.C.	Jul
Sanctification --Kenneth Martin	Jan
Self Denial --Vickie L. Witmer	Feb
Subtle Attack --Joseph Wagner	Oct-Nov
Temptations --Vickie L. Witmer	Jan
The Baptizing --James Cover	Jun
The Bible --Sel. by Margaret Brubaker	Feb
The Big Picture --L.C.	Jan
The Mighty Hand of God --Neil Martin	Sep
The MiWuk Meeting House--Now History --L.C.	Sep
The Peace of Christ --Michael Harris	Dec
The Planting of the Lord --L.C.	Jun
The Time Is Now --Joseph Wagner	Feb
Traveling Through --L.C.	Aug
Treasures in Heaven --Vickie L. Witmer	Mar
True Love--False Love --Kenneth Garber	Jul/Aug/Sep
True Unity --Melvin Lehman, Sel.	Oct-Nov
What Defines a Christian --John L. Beery	May
Witnesses of the Risen Lord --Daniel F. Wolf	Jun

# POEMS

A Chosen Vessel --Sel. by Sharon Miller	May
All the Water --Selected	Jun
A Lovely Scene --Guy Hootman	Mar
Are All the Children In?	May
At the Cross --L.C.	Apr
A Song of Praise --Susanna Tate	Sep
Awake --Miriam Sauder	Feb
Barabbas' Substitute	Apr
Begin and End With God	Jan
Betrayal	Apr
Breath of God	Jun
Bring Your Vessels	Aug
Choice and Destiny --James Beery	Mar
Christ Is All	May
Crosses or Comforts --L.C.	Mar
Discipline	Jun
Gratitude --Vickie L. Witmer	Oct-Nov
Heavenly Power --James Beery	Feb
His Hands	Apr
Light (For Youth) --Susanna Tate	Aug
Look Ahead --L.C.	Jan
Looking for the Sunrise --Sel. by Sharon See	May
Mothers --L.C.	May
No Sweeter Joy --Susanna Tate	Jul
Open My Eyes --Sel. by Ron Cable	Apr
Praise, O Praise Our God and King	Oct-Nov
Prayer for a Life Companion	Feb
Reflections --Sel. by Annalee Taylor	Oct-Nov
Rules for Daily Life	Jan
II Corinthians 10:4,5 --Becky Miller	Feb
Seedtime and Harvest	Jul
Thankful --L.C.	Oct-Nov
The Heavenly Way --James Beery	Apr
The Measure of a Man	Jun
There Is a Green Hill Far Away	Apr
To Fellow Pilgrims --Becky Miller	Sep
We Would See Jesus	Dec
Where Shall I Work	Jul
Yield Not to Temptation	Jan
Your Jesus Comes to Offer Reawakening --Sel. by Michael Harris	Jan



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

Gentle Gene	--Linda Frick	Jan
Meek Molly	"	Feb
Thoughtful Thelma	"	Mar
Loving Lily	"	Apr
Kind Kimberly	"	May
Generous Jenny	"	Jun
Slothful Sally	--Charlesta Hilty	Jul
Non Resistant Nevin	--Linda Frick	Aug
Enthusiastic Emil	"	Sep
On the Road to Heaven	"	Oct-Nov
We're Number One	"	Dec

## HYMN HISTORY --Jean Martin

O For a Closer Walk With God	Jan
'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus	Mar
O Sacred Head Now Wounded	May
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less	Jul
Am I a Soldier of the Cross?	Sep

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

Selection from *The Christian School Builder*

Developing Proper Loyalties	--Dennis W. Martin	Jan
What Are You Aiming For?	--Jonathan Reinford	Feb
Preserving the Fire	--Ernest D. Wine	Apr
The Great Chain	-- <i>Foundation Stones of Success</i> , 1917	May
So Soon	--Ernest D. Wine	Aug
Wondering--Pondering--Convinced		Sep
Christian Schools--A Priceless Privilege	--Jonathan Reinford	Oct-Nov

From the greatest of all gifts, salvation in Christ, to the material blessing of an ordinary day, every good gift comes down from the Father. . . every one of them is to be received gladly and with thanks.

--Elisabeth Elliot

## BAPTISMS

Jewel Royer, Charlotte Royer	July 15
Forrest, Jonathan, and Melissa Tate	July 21
Anye and Tyne Brow	July 21
Chloe and Emily Brandt	July 29
Ryan Flora	July 29
Andrew Albers	Oct 6
Melanie Albers, Received on former baptism	Oct 6
Mark and Claudia Brow	Oct 27

## BIRTHS

Logan Jesse Bowser	Jan 1
Chad Lamar Cover	Jan 4
Amos Wendell Cover	Jan 8
Abigail Hope Tate	Jan 17
Timothy Dean Cable	Jan 18
Gerald Thomas Royer	Jan 31
Dylan Joseph Wagner	Feb 13
Dane Patrick Flora	Feb 27
Margaret Rachel Martin	Mar 25
Riley Sinclair Stalter	Apr 3
Carla Deann Martin	Jun 26
Krista Autumn Royer	Aug 3
Joshua Jon Beery	Aug 11
Elbert Jed Huffman	Aug 16
Jerra Marie Martin	Aug 18
Irina Eliana Dingman	Apr 4, 2000
(adopted July 12, 2001)	
Clara Joy Cable	Nov 8

## DEATHS

Buford Lee Flora	March 27, 2001
Mary Helen (Powell) Culp	July 3, 2001
Ralph L. Cable	October 6, 2001
Esther Elizabeth (Thut) Beck	October 28, 2001



shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious." When people are at rest, they are at peace. The peace of Christ is a peace that is beyond understanding. It is peace that creates such a joy in believers, even in suffering, that the world wonders. I remember an aged sister in the Bruderhof movement telling me that in Nazi Germany they were suspected of being on drugs because the Nazis could not understand the peace and joy that shone in the believers' eyes. This is part of the rest, the peace, and joy of God. Isaiah 62:12: "And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken." The church is God's abode; He has not forsaken it. Where He is, there peace is hovering. Many prophecies tell of the wonderful time to come, and they make a delightful study and food for thought. This Church of Jesus Christ was a fulfilment of prophecy and longing of the saints.

This peace Christ came to bring is a peace that breaks down barriers of race, economics, and backgrounds. It transcends cultures and languages. It is a peace that knows neither Jew nor Gentile, barbarian, black, white, man nor woman. It is a peace the world hates because it calls them to cease their warmongering and stupid follies and turn to the city set on a hill, the kingdom of our Lord. It is a peace that abhors what they call great. It has abandoned possessiveness and greed. It is a peace that calls to a glorious hope in the resurrection and eternal life, and away from petty hatred and pride of country or tribe. It is a peace that is active in calling the scattered children of God throughout the world into one body in Christ: a body of love and reconciliation.

This kingdom is upside down by the world's mindset. It is a kingdom where we are taught to seek the lowest place. It has been said that the Holy Spirit is like water; He seeks the lowest place. We only want the heart of our Saviour to be burning in us. It is a kingdom where the way of Christ in His birth is the

honored way. Someone has said that "He who wants to be born of God must be mindful of how Christ's birth took place." Jesus taught us that to be great, we must stoop to washing feet. He rebuked His disciples when they sought the greatest seat and told them they should not be as the Gentiles, but in lowliness be servants one to another. They should not seek honored places at feasts, for seeking such honor may bring one to shame.

No, the way of Christ, the way of nonresistance, the way of the Church of Jesus Christ, is by lowliness and hearts of love to serve one another and seek to build one another up. It is the way of unity and peace, of loyalty and brotherly camaraderie.

So as we think of our Saviour's birth, may we keep in mind what He so powerfully taught us by seeking the stench and lowliness of a cow's stall for shelter and a sour-smelling feeding trough for a bed. Let us think of how He lived and taught, and of how He died to reconcile us and rose again and lives now to make this a reality in the hearts of all who will be broken and crushed--gathering them into His holy community, the Church. Christ has come to make all things new-- our hearts and lives, individually and collectively.

My prayer is that our fraternity can be this city on a hill, gathering in peace and love all those whose hearts are burning for Christ throughout the world. I hope we can be beacons of peace in a world torn and mutilated by war. May we offer a brother's hand to all who seek after Christ in reality. One of the miracles of the Incarnation is that Christ can be born in us as the only true answer to all our searching and longing--the One whom the Church is gathered around.

O men who look for helping hands,  
O men who see the wintry lands,  
O men who cold and hungry pine,  
Help does not come out of our time!

Help will not come from human hands

In wintry cold and dying lands.  
Light will not come by human deed  
To break the darkness of our need.

An angel stands on this dark earth;  
He shows the way to Jesus' birth.  
For all he points with shining hand  
To Light's own City, Love's own Land.

This City glows with radiance bright:  
The manger and the Child shed light!  
This Child alone redemption brings,  
This Child removes death's fearful stings!

This Child alone our hunger stills;  
This Child alone our poor life fills;  
This Child alone will make us whole.  
Arise, He is our way, our goal!

Fritz Kleiner, c. 1945

Both poems quoted in this article are from Songs of Light, @ Plough Publishing House, Rifton, NY 12471. Used by permission.

Michael Harris, Nappanee, Indiana

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## OBITUARY

Ralph L. Cable of Delphi, Indiana, 93 years and 14 days old, quietly passed away Saturday, October 6, 2001, at 7:25 P.M. in St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center, Delphi, Indiana, where he had been a patient since October 2.

He was born September 22, 1908, in Butler County, Kansas, to Isaac and Mary (Metzger) Cable. His marriage was to Dorothy Keller in July, 1928. She preceded him in death on August 4, 1975. He farmed in Carroll County for many years and also worked at the Camden Elevator for over twenty-five years. During his retirement he volunteered at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center in Delphi for several years and was the recipient of their Volunteer of the Year Award several times. He was recognized as being a quiet person and helpful to the many residents, particularly to those who had little or no family.



His journey took him from Butler County, Kansas, by covered wagon to Pratt County, Kansas, for a few years, then by train to Astoria, Illinois, and finally moving to Carroll County, Indiana, where he reared his family. His mother passed away when he was five years old, and he was reared by his father for five years along with seven other children. He vividly recalled the details and hardship of those years without a mother.

He attended school in Astoria, Illinois, and attended the Christian Reformed Church In Lafayette, Indiana.

Surviving are one son: Norman and wife Floretta Cable of Goshen, Indiana; two daughters: Linda Lou and husband Ronald Koble of Rossville, Indiana, and Diana S. Cable of Delphi, Indiana; one brother: Paul and wife Wilmadean Cable of Camden, Indiana; one sister: Emma Allen of Flint, Michigan; one half-sister: Anna Belle Cable of Camden; seven grandchildren; twenty-one great-grandchildren; and ten great-great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were three brothers: Cecil, Oscar, and Lester; one half-brother: Delbert; and two sisters: Cora McGregor and Martha Walters; and one half-sister: Mary.

Graveside services were conducted at the Mussellman Cemetery near Camden, Indiana, at 10:00 A.M. October 10, by Ministers Kenneth Martin, David Vendermeulen, and Melvin Mohler. Scripture references were Psalm 23 and Revelation 21 and 22. Hymns used were 522, 483, and 368 for the service, and 378, 68, 456, and 455 as the grave was closed.

#### The Family

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#### BIRTH

CABLE - A daughter, Clara Joy, born November 8 to Andrew and Joanna Cable of Wakarusa, Indiana



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## "We're Number One!"

A pick-up truck drove slowly past my house in a parade. The back of the pick-up was full of young children. They were chanting, "We're Number One! We're Number One! We're Number One!" over and over. They were a Pee-Wee baseball team, and they had won every game they played, so they thought they were the best!

This group of children had worked hard and practiced many hours to be able to beat all the other teams. They had to learn to catch balls, how to pitch, how to throw, and how to hit balls with their bats. They needed to learn how to work together and help each other as a team. And they needed to learn to obey their coach.

I'm sure the other teams had worked just as hard, too. For one reason or another, they just hadn't been able to win the games.

People in the world around us encourage us to try to be better than others. There are contests of all kinds in which we can try to prove that we can do something better than other people. It makes us feel very good when we are recognized as better or best.

What does God say about this? Philippians 2:3 tells us to "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory (boasting or wanting praise for ourselves); but in lowliness of mind let each esteem (think of) other better than themselves."

Romans 12:10 says, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another (or honoring others above yourself)."

In Mark 10:35, Jesus tells us that any who want to be first (or Number One), that person will be last and be a servant to everyone. In Matthew 23:12, Jesus says that anyone who says

they are Number One and better than others will be brought down and humiliated.

It is natural for us to think we are better than others. We think we need to prove it, and we want people to praise us. But we need to learn to quietly do our best in whatever we do and to notice how well others do things. We can encourage them and help them do better in their school work or in playing ball or in anything else. Of course, you can do many things better than your younger brothers and sisters because you are bigger than they are. But you don't need to be proud about it or boastful.

Remember that Jesus really was the greatest Person who ever lived on this earth, but He did not boast or get proud. He humbly served people and let men make fun of Him, spit on Him, and hit Him without getting angry or hitting back. He really was Number One, but He didn't try to prove it in any way. When people honored Him, He just gave that honor to God. We should do the same.

Linda Frick  
Gettysburg, Ohio

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